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# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

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by Maxwell Numberg  
and Morris Rosenblum

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# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

*Completely revised and up-dated*

MAXWELL NURNBERG  
and  
MORRIS ROSENBLUM

*With an Introduction by Mario Pei*



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THE LIFE OF LORD CURZON

BY LORD CURZON OF MEWADDEN AND MRS. CURZON

First Indian Edition, 1983

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**AFTER READING THIS BOOK,  
 YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS**

What is the difference between *imply* and *infer*?

What is the connection between *monk* and *monopoly*?

What are the mythic roots of *Hygiene*?

Where is the key to understanding *circumambulate*?

How can you take words apart to see how they work  
 and what they mean?

Why is a dictionary often unnecessary even with the  
 most unfamiliar words?

*"The authors are convinced (and we join  
 them in their conviction) that there are  
 . . . memory aids, or better yet, systems,  
 whereby one may familiarize himself with  
 entire sets of words at once . . . analyze  
 and penetrate their meaning even when  
 they have never been seen before . . .  
 Highly rewarding."*

—Mario Pei

author, scholar, and Professor of  
 Romance Languages at Columbia  
 University

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say it, spell it, master it, remember it  
These are the books that have the answers you need!

**Maxwell Burnberg and Marie's Rosenblum**

**How to Build a Better Vocabulary**

Questions you always wanted to ask about English

**Norman Lewis**

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**The Joy of Vocabulary**

**Batchman's Pocket Series, Oxford (U.K.)**

**Dictionary of Confusable Words**

**Dictionary of Spelling**

**Dictionary of Quotations**

**Dictionary of English Usage**



*"In Basic English, Miss Jones—I love you." \**

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## Authors' Preface

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**WHY** another book on vocabulary?

For two reasons.

First, because most books on the subject are solemn affairs. As if improving and enriching your knowledge of words were a grim task! We don't believe it. We believe that learning more words and more about words can and *must* be a pleasant activity. In fact, when it comes to learning of any kind we're all for the old childhood rhyme:

What's learned with pleasure  
Is learned full measure.

---

\* Drawing reproduced from *The Book*. Copyright 1947 by the United Magazine Magazines Corporation.



That's where this book comes in. We have designed it for your enjoyment. We have tried to make it chatty and informal, readable, and entertaining. We have not hesitated to include anecdotes, puns, rhymes, cartoons, and even films whenever they belong and whenever they can help.

Second, because we want to give you a method of building a bigger and better vocabulary solidly and securely. Our chief purpose, therefore, has been to help you acquire a permanent interest in words. We think this is a better way than the hit-and-run method of memorizing lists of unconnected words. We ask you to stay with the words and make them permanently yours.

That's our purpose. Now, what's yours? You are reading this because you want to improve and enrich your vocabulary. You may consider the effective use of words a business and social asset. You may desire to improve your reading, writing, and speaking vocabulary. You may want to keep up with your friends who know more words than you do. You may have a scholarly interest in words as a branch of knowledge worth cultivating. For these reasons, you may also find it extremely necessary to take note of the changing meanings of old words and keep up with the formation of the new words that are becoming a part of our language in great numbers at a rapid pace. Finally, you may have the more practical purpose of wanting to get a high rating on civil service, scholarship, College Board, professional, or any other examinations in which a knowledge of vocabulary has become increasingly important.

Whatever your purpose, we think you will find what you want in this book. We can show you how to acquire the words; the rest is up to you.

And—oh, yes—if, after reading this book, you should happen to marry the bow's daughter, it won't be because of your increased vocabulary. The only words you'll need for that are: "I love you." They will do the trick.

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*"That is the letter 'A,' as in action, accolade, amphibian, and acrimonious."*

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## Introduction

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IT IS AN astounding fact that the average cultured speaker of English knows no more than one out of ten words in his own language. Very roughly speaking, the total number of English words is about one million. Rare indeed is the man who is acquainted with more than 100,000 of that total number.

It is perfectly true that the grand total of one million is attained by summing up not only the words in general use, but also thousands upon thousands of "special" words—obscure slang and cant, dialectal and local forms, words described as archaic, obsolete and obsolescent, and above all, the numerous specialized jargons of the various trades, businesses, occupations, professions and sciences. There is no reason why the engineer or industrial manufacturer should be expected to know the thousands of medical, physiological and anatomical terms that are a crust to the physician, or those other thousands of words contained in U.S. Pharmacopoeia that the druggist or chemist must be familiar with. Conversely, there is no reason for expecting the physician to know the complicated terminology of the automotive engineer, or of the atomic scientist, or of the linguistic scholar.

Still, when all is said and done, there remains a large residue of words in common use—words which have a way of showing up in the columns of a newspaper editorial, or in the pages of a review of general culture, or even of a popular magazine.

The average man, whose practical vocabulary embraces perhaps 10,000 words, is often enough faced with many thousands of additional words which he must admit he does not know, if he is willing to be honest with himself. There are two things he can do about them: look them up on the spot in his handy dictionary, or bypass them and rely on the general meaning of the context in which he finds them.

The first method is time-consuming and not always feasible (he may, for example, encounter an unfamiliar word as he scans his morning paper on the subway or bus on his way to

work). At any rate, even if he looks up the word, his chance of retaining it so that he will recognize it the next time he meets it are slim, human memory being the fallible tool it is. Relying on the context is frustrating at best; at worst, it may lead to an altogether incorrect interpretation of that context.

Are there memory aids, or better yet, systems, whereby one may familiarize himself with entire sets of words at once, break them up into their component parts, analyze and penetrate their meaning even when they have never been seen before? The authors are convinced (and we join them in their conviction) that there are such devices. We can call them short cuts to word understanding, or aids to building a wider personal vocabulary, or word-histories and word-etymologies pure and simple. But they exist, and are available.

The authors, men of long experience in this field, have selected and gathered together in this volume a number of such short cuts or aids. These are now offered to the intellectually curious, who want to know how language is built up; to the practically minded, who recognize the dollars-and-cents value of a wider range of vocabulary as an instrument of self-expression and a tool in human relations; to those who want to broaden their enjoyment of life, so often expressed in terms of language.

Such rules and devices are not always easy to apply and follow; but in this book they are expressed in the clearest, simplest fashion in which it is possible to express them. Their application will be found highly rewarding, in terms of expansion of word-power, increased enjoyment and understanding of what one reads, control of others through that most effective of public-relations devices, language.

But even if your goal is not a serious one; even if you pick up a book not in order to learn, but in order to amuse yourself; even if you seek pure relaxation and fun, this book will suit your purpose, for the authors have prepared their pills of learning in such a way that you will find it pleasurable to swallow them.

So—enjoy while you learn, and learn while you enjoy.

MARCO PEE  
Professor of  
Romance Languages  
Columbia University

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## **1. WAYS AND MEANS**

---



"Don't you think it's high time we bought him  
an abridged edition?" \*

---

## 1. Anyday Words for Everyday Use

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THE CONVERSATION had been somewhat drowsy—the weather, golf, his law practice, John F. Kennedy. Then our visitor brightened up.

"We just finished reading *The Nine Young Men*."

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"Oh, the book about the Supreme Court."

He brushed aside the interruption. "Have you ever read any of Justice Frankfurter's decisions?"

"We hadn't."

"You should. You'd be interested in the words he uses. For instance, there's one word he uses a lot—*seriatim*."

A slight pause—then: "By the way, what does the word *seriatim* mean?"

"*Seriatim*? Why, it means—a connection. The English spell connection—c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n. It means a link, something to tie two things together."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah."

## EVEN AS YOU AND I

There you have it—the conversation just as it took place one summer on an Adirondack porch. Our visitor had run true to form as a member in good standing of the human race. Here was a curiosity—still warm—about a word he had read. Would he look it up in a dictionary? No. Would you?

Well, we're all a little bit like that. It seems more fun to ask someone than to look a word up in the dictionary. It isn't really laziness. Anyone who has a curiosity about words isn't lazy. He just hasn't discovered how exciting an experience thumbing a rule through a dictionary can be.

## FOR WHOM THIS BOOK

So this book is written for our visitor and all others like him—who haven't yet learned how much fun there is hunting a word down the columns of a dictionary, who would still rather buttonhole a friend and ask, "Hey, Buddy, what's a *seriatim*?"

It is written for the kind of person who would like to know more words, and know more about those he knows, but who somehow never has gotten around to doing anything about it. It is written for the kind of person who always has a word on the tip of his tongue—precariously perched—instead of safely filed away in his mind. It is written for the kind of person who would like to feel greater security with those words with which he now has a reading, listening, and speaking acquaintance. It is written for you.



## PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

It is our purpose not only to help you add new words to your vocabulary but to bring into sharp and permanent focus those words that are now on the blurred fringe of your mind.

It is our purpose to help you to use all words with maximum effectiveness—so that they become precision tools for the shaping of your thoughts.

Finally, it is our purpose to make the dictionary something that you will use not only with ease but with pleasure.

## WHAT ARE ANYDAY WORDS?

At this point you may want to interrupt and ask, "All this is very nice, but where did you get the words you think it so important for me to know and feel secure with?"

Well, we didn't go for our words to the morgues of former lists or to that best repository of all, the dictionary. We hunted them down in their natural habitat—the newspapers, magazines, and books that you read—and we brought them back alive! In other words, we did the kind of reading you did the past year or two. We covered the same ground you did—from sports news to world affairs, from picture magazines to best sellers. But we did it not only with our eyes. We read with blue pencils, scissors, paste, and index cards. We read with an eye to selecting and collecting those words that occurred frequently enough to make them standard equipment for the educated man or woman. In this way we assembled the several thousand words that appear in this book. These are not everyday words; these are *anyday* words—words you may encounter *any day* while listening to others or reading your favorite newspapers, magazines, and books.\*

## HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU?

Now, we'll ask you a question. Has this ever happened to you? You come across a word you don't know and, breaking precedent, you consult a dictionary for its meaning. And what happens? Three weeks later you meet the same word. You shake your head in puzzlement. Sure, you remember the word—you remember looking it up—but exactly what does it

---

\* Here we do not refer to many of the words in the text in the last two chapters. These were obviously chosen for their difficulty and are not recommended for daily use.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

mean? You throw the dictionary open again. "This time," you say to yourself, "I'll memorize it."

But you'll probably have to look it up again. Learning something by rote, memorizing it on the surface of your mind is not the surest way to remember it. Things you memorize that way are like floating toy balloons. They'll stay around for a while, but unless you tie them down, they'll blow away. You have to associate something you want to remember with something that you know—you have to tie it down to your mind, you have to make a permanent mark.

### THE PERMANENT WAY

In this book we're going to try to tie words down for you, to fix them *inside* your mind. To do that, we're going to get *inside* the word.

Words, like human beings, have a past. Their roots are deep. Their family trees go back to the dawn of history and they grow on those trees not singly but in *clusters*. Like Walter Mitty, words have a secret life. We're going to find out the secret of getting at their meanings and we're going to find a way of fixing them permanently.

### THROUGH CONTEXT

Let's see how it works. Suppose we take the word *desultory* which we used in the first sentence of this chapter. It's a word of only moderate difficulty. But does it mean much to you right here in the open air by itself—*desultory*? You're tempted to turn back to the opening sentence. All right, let's yield to that temptation. Here's the sentence again: "The conversation had been somewhat *desultory*—the weather, golf, Air law practice, John F. Kennedy." Now, restored to the other words and ideas with which it was associated, *desultory* means a lot more. But we haven't gotten inside the word yet. We've just gotten alongside.

### WORDS HAVE A PAST

We can understand words better if we know something about their past. *Desultory* has a past. It goes back to Roman times and Roman circus. The circus rider who, before shouting crowds in the arena, performed the feat of changing horses in mid-air was called a *desultor*, because he jumped

from one home to another. Now look at that first sentence again. The conversation was *dansatory*, because it jumped from one topic to another. We're closing in on the word; we're getting inside.

## THEY GROW IN CLUSTERS

*Dansatory* didn't pop out of someone's brain as an isolated word. Words belong to family groups. *Dansatory* belongs to the *salt* family. Some of its members spell it *sal*, *sal*, and even *salut*, but no matter how it's spelled, the family name means jump or leap. If you *salut* someone, you are figuratively "jumping on (in) him." A resilient substance is one that can jump back (*re*) to its original state after being stretched. If you get in an exuberant mood, you are "jumping out of (*ex*) your skin with joy." A salient feature is one that leaps out at you. To do a somersault is to leap or jump while turning the heels over (*super*, from *supra*, above) head without touching the ground. A *dansatory* conversation is one that jumps alternately from (*de*) one topic to another. And now we think we have completed our assault (a jumping toward, as for *ad*) on the word *dansatory*. We have breached the outer defenses. We are inside the word.

## YOU CAN PRE-FIX THE WORD

Often just knowing the meaning of the prefix (such as *re*, *in*, *ex*, and *de*) will give us the essential force of the word. A very strong prefix that everybody knows is *anti*. You can be pretty sure that a word beginning with *anti* is "against something," even though the rest of the word by itself may mean little to you. *Antagonize*, *antipathy* (in contrast with *sympathy*), *antithesis*, *antipodes*, *antonym* (in contrast with *synonym*) are shot through and through with the idea of *oppositeness*. A prefix can often be not only the key that unlocks the meaning of a word but the key that locks it inside your mind.

## OTHER METHODS

That's the way we're going to handle it. We're going to get inside the word whenever possible. And around it—in clusters, not only of roots but also of synonyms (words related in meaning) or antonyms (words opposite in meaning).

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

We do not recommend the learning of lists of unconnected, isolated words at a fixed rate per day like so many sitting-up cardinals. We believe that you learn more words by learning more about words. Rudyard Kipling once wrote, "What should they know of England who only England know?" It's the same with words: if you really want to know them, you must know more than the mere word. We shall try to indicate for you every possible method of learning about words. We shall indicate every possible method of association. We may even stoop to trickery. BUT WE'LL FIX THAT WORD!

### TAKING INVENTORY

The sixty words given below were taken from Regents Scholarship Examinations given in New York State to graduating high school students of superior ability. It follows, therefore, that they are fairly difficult words, but we came across every one of them in our newspaper reading.

If you get 52 or more right, you are in the select scholarship group. If you get 48-51, you are doing extremely well. You are good if you get 42-47 right, and even if you get 33-46, you're doing well. If you get fewer than 15, don't be discouraged. There are 363 more pages in this book, and they were all written for you.

In each line below you will find one italicized word followed by five words or phrases numbered 1 to 5. In each case select the word or phrase that has most nearly the same meaning as the italicized word. Answers will be found on page 361.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>abacus</i>       | 1 cassette 2 blackboard 3 slide rule<br>4 long pipe 5 adding device                     |
| 2. <i>acquiescence</i> | 1 advice 2 advocacy 3 compliance<br>4 friendliness 5 opposition                         |
| 3. <i>adroit</i>       | 1 hostile 2 serene 3 pompous 4 skillful<br>5 allergic                                   |
| 4. <i>ambulatory</i>   | 1 able to walk 2 confined to bed<br>3 injured 4 quarantined 5 suffering<br>from disease |
| 5. <i>amalgamate</i>   | 1 favor 2 improve 3 interfere 4 learn<br>5 evade  |
| 6. <i>antithesis</i>   | 1 contrast 2 conclusion 3 resemblance<br>4 examination 5 dislike                        |
| 7. <i>ariste</i>       | 1 showed 2 built 3 point 4 protective<br>5 rubbers                                      |
| 8. <i>attribution</i>  | 1 assimilation 2 encirclement 3 construction<br>4 apprehension 5 wearing<br>down        |

# ANYDAY WORDS FOR EVERYDAY USE

9. augment	1 ornate 2 change 3 reroute 4 conceal 5 increase
10. band	1 commonplace 2 frequent 3 periodic 4 new 5 unexpected
11. bizarre	1 beautiful 2 warlike 3 shaggy 4 fan- tastic 5 oriental
12. bazaar	1 sporting 2 dramatic 3 argumentative 4 miscellaneous 5 rude
13. coalesce	1 associate 2 combine 3 contact 4 conspire 5 cover
14. cogent	1 dead 2 fat 3 full 4 organized 5 similar
15. decant	1 knock 2 speak wildly 3 bespeak 4 pour off 5 abuse verbally
16. deplore	1 condemn 2 forget 3 forgive 4 deny 5 regret
17. dissonance	1 disapproval 2 disaster 3 discord 4 disparity 5 dissimilarity
18. encephalic	1 capital 2 compensation 3 habitable 4 low 5 output
19. enigma	1 unknown 2 foreigner 3 instrument 4 officer 5 riddle
20. ethnology	1 causation 2 morals 3 social psychology 4 study of race 5 word analysis
21. expunge	1 clarify 2 copy 3 delete 4 investigate 5 underline
22. fiasco	1 disappointing 2 turning point 3 loss 4 celebration 5 complete failure
23. finite	1 impure 2 firm 3 minute 4 limited 5 unbonded
24. fission	1 dark seed 2 feet 3 life preserver 4 shoreline 5 wreckage
25. fulminating	1 threatening 2 pointed 3 wretched 4 threatening 5 bickering
26. glib	1 cheerful 2 delightful 3 doll 4 fluent 5 gloomy
27. graphic	1 serious 2 cosmic 3 short 4 detailed 5 vivid
28. incense	1 declining 2 disapproved 3 impending 4 mortifying 5 unlikely
29. incipient	1 beginning 2 dangerous 3 hasty 4 secret 5 widespread
30. indelible	1 doubtful 2 fraudulent 3 homosexual 4 safe 5 undeniable
31. inescapable	1 unfavorable 2 permanent 3 weak 4 reluctant 5 incomplete
32. invidious	1 evil 2 habitual 3 inconsiderate

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

	4 referred 3 unintentional
33. jettison	1 throw overboard 2 dismantle 3 scuttle 4 unload cargo 5 camouflage
34. jitter	1 unsteady 2 jay 3 descent 4 crashed 5 anticipated
35. lesion	1 injury 2 confusion 3 suffering 4 convulsion 5 aggravation
36. litigation	1 publication 2 argument 3 endeavor 4 lawsuit 5 controversy
37. lucrative	1 debasing 2 fortunate 3 influential 4 monetary 5 profitable
38. marauder	1 gruesome 2 manager 3 scold 4 fan- tastic 5 wringing
39. malediction	1 curse 2 mispronunciation 3 grammati- cal error 4 tactless remark 5 aphaph
40. nefarious	1 clever 2 necessary 3 negligent 4 shortlighted 5 wicked
41. obsequious	1 courteous 2 flattery 3 respectful 4 overbearing 5 inexperienced
42. paucity	1 abundance 2 ease 3 hardship 4 lack 5 stoppage
43. perusal	1 approval 2 estimate 3 reading 4 translation 5 computation
44. petulant	1 lazy 2 loving 3 patient 4 perish 5 wary
45. philopatric	1 relevant 2 careless 3 sensitive 4 staid 5 sick
46. placid	1 amuse 2 appease 3 enthrall 4 pity 5 reject
47. plagiarize	1 mimic 2 borrow 3 steal ideas 4 imitate poorly 5 impede
48. proclivity	1 backwardness 2 elicit 3 rainfall 4 slope 5 tendency
49. proprietary	1 advancement 2 advancement 3 drama 4 sobriety 5 use
50. protracted	1 boxing 2 condensed 3 prolonged 4 comprehensive 5 measured
51. pugacious	1 bold 2 combative 3 bravery 4 pug- nosed 5 violent
52. pulchritude	1 beauty 2 character 3 generosity 4 intelligence 5 wickedness
53. pusillanimous	1 cowardly 2 extraordinary 3 ailing 4 evil-intentioned 5 capable
54. redundant	1 necessary 2 plentiful 3 sufficient 4 diminishing 5 superfluous
55. relevant	1 ingenuous 2 inspiring 3 obvious 4 pertinent 5 tentative
56. seismic	1 foundation 2 tide 3 volcano 4 earth- quake 5 tornado



*"The Thesaurus is admirable, advantageous, beneficial, capital, choice, enjoying, excellent, faultless, incomparable, perfect, splendid, superb, unparalleled." \**

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## 2. The Company Words Keep

---

YOU ARE comfortably seated, reading the latest killer-thriller. The suspense has been mounting. Bug-eyed, you read this:

Jim Devere ran toward the reclining figure. Suddenly the lights were switched off, and an shriek cry transmitted him with galled fear. . . .

---

\* Quoting reprintment courtesy the Saturday Review.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Do you immediately run to the nearest dictionary to look up the words *elritch* and *ghid*? You do not. Like most people, you continue reading to find out who was responsible for the cry—*elritch* or otherwise—that caused Jan Devan to go *ghid*—whatever that is—with fear.

No matter what you're reading, your primary interest is in the story or the thought that's coming through. The drive of the thought, the momentum of the story will carry you right past such words as *elritch* and *ghid* without mishap or hesitation. And that is as it should be.

You don't want to read and at the same time stop to think of individual words you will have to look up in a dictionary. You want to do one thing at a time. You want to read one book at a time—the book you're reading. The dictionary can wait—and it does!

Take the case of Yogi Berra, catcher and outfielder of the New York Yankees. One day during a tight game, Bucky Harris, then Yankee manager, was scanning the bench for a pinch hitter. His hand finally came down on Yogi's shoulder. "All right, Yogi," he said, "go in there and hit. Sure, you've been hitting in a slump. But it's because you aren't thinking enough at the plate. Think before you pick out a ball. Make sure it's good before you swing. Think!"\*

Yogi went up to the plate and swung—three times, not once getting even a piece of the ball. He slumped angrily back to the bench, muttering away to himself in a corner of the dugout. Curious, Bucky Harris decided to walk past him to find out what Yogi had on his mind. Under his breath Yogi was repeating over and over, "How can a guy hit and think at the same time?"

It is admittedly hard to hit and think at the same time. In the same way, it is hard to read with unalloyed pleasure and stop to think of the meaning of individual words.

But if you're really serious about increasing your vocabulary in a big way, you'll find it pays to stop to think of individual words. You'll even want to give up a little of the relaxed enjoyment there is in reading and devote some thoughtful attention to new words that look up at you eagerly and point in the direction of the dictionary.

However, even without the help of a dictionary, you can increase your vocabulary by wide reading. For words, like

\* Although in his autobiography (*Yogi by Yogi Berra and Ed Fitzgerald*, Doubleday, New York, 1965) Mr. Berra stamps this story as apocryphal, we like it and we'll stick with it.



people, are known by the company they keep, and the context in which you meet an unfamiliar word will frequently reveal its meaning.

You are bound to learn new words in this way because the context often acts as a catalytic agent. And there's one of those words right now—*catalytic*.

Just what is a catalytic agent? A wit recently came up with this definition: "A catalytic agent," he quipped, "is one that doesn't get too far out."

And a good definition it is, too. For in the science laboratory a substance whose mere presence causes or speeds a reaction, while it itself remains unchanged, is called a catalytic agent. In the same way, the context in which a word is embedded may act as a catalyst.

Here, for example, are twenty words dug out of their contexts. Look them over carefully. Check those whose meanings you are sure of.

abrogation  
abstruse  
alcovole  
apaty  
barbic  
clandestine  
dearth

despoil  
economical  
enclave  
ephemeral  
exhaustive  
legions  
medicancy

radix  
paradox  
pyromaniac  
rescind  
soured  
subterfuge

They look pretty difficult, don't they, all by themselves—away from the words that help clothe them with meaning? When you take words by themselves in a list, you're taking only dictionary words—*dead*, *inactive*. In a dictionary, words are quick-frozen for easy inspection. They don't thaw out and come to life until you see them used in a sentence.

Some of these words are critical. They may not look to you like words you've met in newspapers and magazines. But that's where we got them.

And now we're going to make it possible for you to get the meaning of every one of these words right. How? By simply putting the words back into the sentences in which we found them and in which the context acted as a catalytic agent.

You can check your answers on page 361.

## WORDS IN THEIR CONTEXTS

Under each newspaper excerpt, we give you four choices. Select the one you think comes closest in meaning to the word under examination.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### 1. ABOGATION

Termination of Dutch air privileges in India will take the form of the abrogation by India of the temporary civil aviation agreement between the Netherlands and India effected at the end of the war.

(a) repeal (b) short extension (c) investigation (d) promulgation

### 2. ABSTEMIOUS

With the cup filled with champagne, Bucky Harris posed for more pictures, but being privately a rather abstemious fellow he sipped it cautiously.

(a) hesitant (b) temperate (c) superstitious (d) careful

### 3. AFICIONADO

To an aficionado this is all to the good, for your true baseball fanatic can get as inflated over a game played twenty years ago as over one played last night.

(a) an old-timer (b) a second-gasser (c) a Mexican Leaguer (d) an ardent follower of a sport

### 4. APATHY

Millions have shown remarkable apathy, discounting the professional politicians. There are several reasons for this lack of interest.

(a) indifference (b) suffering (c) patience (d) curiosity

### 5. BUCCOLIC

It is clothed with delightful characters, the homely humor of the rural English and the bucolic beauty of the countryside.

(a) quiet (b) lush (c) rustic (d) indescribable

### 6. CLAMOROUS

#### **Published Secret Paper**

M. Deprez said the organization published a clamorous newspaper.

(a) daily (b) hand-written (c) secret (d) subversive

7. DEARTH

**Fear of Dollar Dearth  
Stressed in Trade Survey**

Growing fears of a world-wide dollar shortage are being examined in a special study of United States foreign trade since the war.

(a) scarcity (b) control (c) depreciation (d) inflation

8. DETERGENT

They [researchers] find that if only half the proper amount of soap or detergent is used for a twenty-minute washing period, twice as much work is required to remove the same amount of dirt.

(a) materials (b) antiseptics (c) powder (d) cleaning agent

9. ECUMENICAL

Dr T. Heeft said that the goal of the concert was to achieve "an ecumenical fellowship in Christ."

He described an ecumenical relationship as one which "includes but also transcends all nationalities and races and which must therefore be independent of all political considerations."

(a) spiritual (b) world-wide (c) unaffiliated (d) whole-hearted

10. ENCLAVE

An enclave, such as Puckala, is a tract enclosed within a foreign country—in this case by the Russians inside Finland.

(a) district enclosed within alien territory (b) fortified area (c) conquered territory (d) free city

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### 11. EPHEMERAL

It is our task as to train them that they may, through their reading, learn to distinguish the true from the false, the enduring from the ephemeral, the significant from the trivial, the beautiful from the ugly, the good from the evil.

- (a) flimsy (b) shoddy (c) short-lived (d) everlasting

### 12. EUTHANASIA

The Euthanasia Society of America is now conducting a campaign to legislate euthanasia, or "mercy killings."

- (a) pain-killing (b) Europe and Asia (c) painless death  
(d) aid and charity

### 13. LOGISTICS

It is shortsighted to consider the civil wars around the globe in terms of logistics, of supplying with material, weapons and financial help.

- (a) reasoning (b) results (c) diplomacy (d) supplying  
and quartering troops

### 14. MENDICANCY

That challenge is summarized in the warning coined in London that under the Marshall Plan Europe would merely substitute organized mendicancy for individual beggary.

- (a) bartering (b) the habit of begging (c) self-improvement  
(d) organizing destruction

### 15. NADIR

With Ister and his family we reach humanity's nadir: below this point, all is sub-human.

- (a) zenith (b) the lowest point (c) common level  
(d) disgrace

16. PARADOX

A Rabbi was the only perfect Christian in his town—that is the paradox achieved in this witty and warm-hearted book.

- (a) moral lesson (b) self-contradictory but true statement (c) climax (d) convincing result

17. PSYCHOMANC

Alert armed guards patrolled grounds and buildings of the sprawling Duke University Hospital tonight in search of an elusive psychomancer who has started eight fires in the institution in three days.

- (a) escaped convict (b) mental defective (c) drug addict (d) persistent incendiary

18. REGALTYMANT

If crops are necessary to avert livestock and other claims being withheld by recalcitrant farmers, they may be mobilized for this purpose.

- (a) boarding (b) dairy (c) rebellious (d) remotely situated

19. SERRATED

**Swordfish Fight Rubber Bole**

Three swordfish attacked a bale of rubber in the sea off Capetown recently and met a tragic fate. This was revealed when their bodies, minus their serrated weapons, were washed up on the beach. Nearby was a bale of rubber with the three swords stuck fast in it.

- (a) dull (b) thick (c) gleaming (d) saw-toothed

20. SUBTERFUGE

It should be done openly and by the deliberate choice of the people, not by subterfuge and seduction.

- (a) evasion (b) compulsion (c) bribery (d) penitentiary

DON'T GO AWAY YET!

You haven't learned these words. Suppose you were to meet these words alone some dark night without their context? Could you recognize them? Or would you need the help of a dictionary to identify them?

Context is not enough. You have to tie the words down to your mind. Learn them in context; get alongside. Fix them through association; get inside.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THEM BY

ASSOCIATION

You can approach the meaning of this word and thousands of others through the prefix which begins it. *Ab* has the negative idea *away from*. *Abog*, which you find also in *interrogate* and many other words, means asking, begging, postponing. To *abrogate* is to abolish, to beg off, to do away with, and *abrogation* is, therefore, an annulment, cancellation, revocation, or repeal. In the context, the word *abrogation* helped reveal the meaning.

ABSTEMIOUS

Here, too, the prefix *ab*, away, offers a clue. *Abstemious* means staying away from heavy eating or strong drinks (*intemperate* is Latin for an intoxicating drink). You can fix the word by remembering *abstain*, to keep from. Incidentally, *abstemious* is an oddity among words, being one of only three English words with five vowels in their alphabetical order. (*Alphabetical* and *facetious* are the others.)

AFICIONADO

This is a borrowing from the Spanish. *Aficionado* tells us that the Spaniards have their mild fans, too, especially among the followers of bullfighting. Actually, *aficionado* means an amateur or lover of a sport. It is derived from the same Latin word which gives us *affection*.

Carl Dreyer in a short story in *Good Housekeeping* uses it effectively in this sense in a sentence whose context is revelatory: "He was no longer a professional researcher; he was an *aficionado* of research."

APART

The prefix *a* from the Greek says, No. Part is the root of

pathos, a strong feeling or suffering. *Apathy*, therefore, is no feeling one way or another, or as the context tells us "a lack of interest." It should be distinguished from *antipathy* which means a decided feeling against or hatred. The opposite of antipathy is sympathy, a sharing of feelings with (even) somebody else.

#### BUCOLIC

In the poetry of the ancients, shepherds and herdsmen led an idyllic existence while tending their flocks. They made pleasant music on the pipes of Pan, and the city dwellers sighed for the pastoral existence of the countryside. The word *bucolic* describes this type of living. It comes from the word for herdsmen, *bucolicus*, a person who has to do with cows and oxen. From the related Latin root we get *bovine*, *cowlike* (*bov*, *bova*, *cow*).

#### CLAUDETHINE

It would be perfect if *clandestine* were related to the English word *claw* as used in the expression, "As secretive as a clam." *Clandestine*, meaning secret, comes from another claw, the Latin word *claw*, meaning secretly. It is related to the Latin verb *calare*, to hide, from which we get *conceal*. *Clandestine* (accent on the DES) has the sinister meaning of keeping something secret illegally or by trickery.

#### DEARTH

*Dearth* is just the word *dear* and the ending *th* as in *warmth*, *health*, *wealth*, *death*, *growth* and *truth*. It once meant dearthness but now means scarcity, thereby reminding us that the law of supply and demand is old—what was scarce became dear.

#### DETERGENT

A radio announcer proclaiming the merits of a cleanser declared that it was not a soap but a *detergent*. He was off the beam there because if soaps clean, they are *detergent*. *Detergent* is formed from the root of a Latin verb *detergere*, to rub or wipe dry. Another name for a detergent is an *abwenger*. From the same root comes *verse* applied to style or manner of speaking. It means wiped dry of unnecessary material, polished, and therefore concise and neatly elegant.

# ECUMENICAL

The root of this word is found also in *economy* which originally meant the management of the home or domestic economy, from the Greek word *oikos*, a dwelling or house. The *ecumenical* world is the inhabited world, wherever people have homes. *Ecumenical*, therefore, means world-wide and liberal as opposed to parochial in its sense of local and provincial, i.e. restricted to a parish.

# ENCLAVE

The newspaper sentence quoted gives a very good dictionary definition. The key to the meaning of the word is *clavis*, Latin for key. An *enclave* is territory locked within a foreign country. There is a growing figurative use of this word to denote areas within the same country differing in customs or culture as in the following:

The Copper Belt is a tiny *enclave* of peace in an expanse of troubled Africa.

A *cloister* is a meeting held in a closed room. A *clavichord* or *clavier*, the predecessor of the piano, is a keyboard instrument. The *clavicle* is the scientific name for the collarbone, perhaps because it resembles a little key, a skeleton key, of course. *Autoclave*, a Greek and Latin mixture, comes to us via French. The word was coined from *auto* and *clavis*, nail, or *clavis* key, and hence means "self-fastening" or "self-locking." *Autoclave* originally designated a kind of French *marmites* or *strepas* with a steamtight lid designed for cooking or roasting in a closed vessel. The word is more frequently used here to denote a type of airtight vessel used for sterilization; it also means a pressure cooker.

# EPHEMERAL

This is a lovely word meaning frail and perishable or fleeting but a day, from the Greek *hēmera*, a day. The same root is found in the *Decameron*, the title of Boccaccio's collection of stories, which tells of the events of ten (*deka*) days. The May flies, those delicate insects which live only a few hours or days after they are hatched, are called *Ephemera*.

# EUTHANASIA

This word means an easy manner of dying, from the Greek prefix *eu*, well or easily, and *thanatos*, death. In modern



## THE COMPANY WORDS KEEP

What it means the art or practice of putting a hopelessly incurable invalid to death painlessly. *Thanatos* was the Greek personification of death, twin brother of Sleep and the son of Night. William Cullen Bryant's poem "Thanatopsis" is a view or contemplation of death.

### LOGISTICS

*Logistics* is a descendant of the French verb *loger*, to billet, or put up for the night. An army has to be fed, transported, supplied, and lodged, and logistics is that most important branch of military art and science which attends to these details.

### MENDICANCE

*Mendicant* is a Latin word meaning a poor man or a beggar. The word gave its name to the group of mendicant friars or religious brothers who took the vow of poverty, practiced collective ownership of property, and lived by begging alms and charity.

### NADIR

The Arabs, who gave us a number of words in astronomy and sciences, called the point of the celestial sphere directly under the observer the *nadir*. It is directly opposite to the highest point or *zenith*. Keats joined the two in "Hyperion" in such a way that the difference between *nadir* and *zenith* is easy to remember:

Swarm-shaped lightnings from the nadir deep  
Up to the zenith.

### PARADOX

*Pars* means beside, beyond, or contrary to, and *doxa* comes from *dokein*, a Greek word meaning opinion. A *paradox* is a statement or belief contrary to accepted belief, or an idea contrary to common sense which nevertheless has truth in it. W. S. Gilbert, named by Sullivan, stressed this aspect of a paradox in *The Pirates of Penzance*:

How quaint the ways of Paradox!  
As common sense was paddy mock!

As used so frequently in our newspapers, *paradox* means a contradiction. *Doxa* from the same root means accepted or

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

authoritative belief. A dogmatic person is self-opinionated, one who asserts opinion as fact. *Heterodoxy* (*hetero*—other, different) means a set of beliefs and opinions contrary to established beliefs. It is a departure from orthodoxy (*ortho*—right), opinions or beliefs held to be true.

### PYROMANIAC

A pyromaniac is mad about fire: he has an irresistible impulse to set something on fire. *Pyre*, the Greek word for fire, is found in this word as it is in *pyre*, a funeral pile on which the ancients cremated their dead. Where there's *pyre*, *pyre*, or *pyro* in a word, there's pretty sure to be fire. *Pyrotechnics* are fireworks. An *antipyretic* works against the "fire" or fever. In ancient times, the highest sphere or heaven was described as a region of fire or light. Hence we have the word *em-pyrean*, meaning in the region of fire. Now it is a poetic word meaning simply the high heaven or "the wild blue yonder."

### RECALCITRANT

To be recalcitrant means "to kick the heels back" and refuse to budge, from *re*, back, and *calc*, heel.

A recalcitrant person or animal is obstinate and rebellious.

To *incubate* is literally to stamp or press in with the heel. Schoolteachers no longer hammer in knowledge by physical pounding but figuratively they do press it in by frequent repetition when they *incubate* ideas or learning.

*Decalcomania* is a specially prepared design or picture that can be permanently transferred to glass or any smooth surface by rubbing or pressing (not necessarily with the heel).

### SERRATED

This means toothed and notched like a saw, from the Latin *serra*, a saw. The Spanish influence in our continent is seen in many place names which still bear Spanish names. *Serra*, the Spanish form of *serra*, was used as a description of mountains which had a jagged, saw-like outline. When the early Californians pushed eastward and saw the very high mountains, they called them *Sierra Nevada*, the snow-capped range. Later the name was changed to the Californian Mountains but General Frémont popularized the earlier name, which has stuck.

### SUBTERRANEAN

This is an underhanded (*subter*—beneath, under) method

of escaping (*fugere*—to flee or escape). It's applied to the trick whereby one dodges an issue or gets out of doing something. The root of *fugere* has given us many words of escape like *refuge*, *refugee*, and *fugitive*. The herb known as the *feverfew* is really the *febrifuge*, an agent that, like an antipyretic, causes a fever to flee.

So, if you want to enrich and increase your vocabulary, it's a good idea to read widely, for it's better to meet words in context in the newspapers, magazines, and books that interest you than in lists, where words are isolated and unconnected items. And when you read—

### STOP, LOOK, AND LIST THEM

When you come across new or unfamiliar words STOP. Then LOOK around and see whether the context reveals their meaning as the twenty excerpts in this chapter do. If the context doesn't give you first aid, LIST THEM. Sometime, perhaps, you will look them up in a dictionary. If you do, find some way to fix their meaning or your trip to the dictionary will be wasted. It might even be a good idea to LIST THEM after you've looked them up. The list you make of words you've actually met in your reading is worth a great deal more than any list made for you. It's connected with your reading; it's associated with your ideas; it's yours. And it will stick.

Oh, by the way, there's a rather personal question we'd like to ask you. Did you rush off to a dictionary to look up the words *elusive* and *grind*? You didn't? Was it because you know what they mean? Well, if you don't and you're panting with curiosity, you'll find a word index at the back of the book with *elusive* and *grind* in their correct alphabetical order.

### THE WORD LOOKS FAMILIAR

These words look familiar because we have reproduced them in the phrases in which they originally appeared. Can you place them?

Although these words may be just as difficult as or more difficult than the sixty in the previous chapter, we think you will find them easier because of the company they're in. (Answers will be found on page 362.)

1. any benefits accruing (a) belonging jointly (b) accumulating (c) deductible (d) uncom-  
plained

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | an advisory action keeping them back         | (a) violent (b) stern (c) warning (d) cautionary   |
| 3  | to stay suspicious                           | (a) hold off (b) set at rest (c) confirm (d) destroy   |
| 4  | blasphemy of vulgar taste and vulgarity      | (a) wild shouting (b) public celebration (c) flattering praise (d) speech making                       |
| 5  | the immigrant being easily assimilable       | (a) likable (b) understood (c) absorbed (d) disposed of  |
| 6  | after an hour of desultory attempt           | (a) hasty (b) unending (c) unswerving (d) desultory  |
| 7  | brushing the statue with affectionate hands  | (a) polishing (b) wiping (c) cleaning (d) brushing   |
| 8  | his long cadaverous face                     | (a) wrinkled (b) sagged (c) sunken (d) sunken  |
| 9  | capitulate him away from the sandpile        | (a) covering (b) rudely brushing (c) politely asking (d) coaxing                                       |
| 10 | the removal of noticeable behavior           | (a) less (b) details (c) essentials (d) defiance   |
| 11 | an impression judgment or fancy derived from | (a) thoughtful (b) whimsical (c) light-hearted (d) soundly motivated                                   |
| 12 | chaotically issued                           | (a) with complete confusion (b) with uncontrollable violence (c) without definite plan (d) with rather |
| 13 | characteristically chemical sciences         | (a) testative (b) scientific (c) visionary (d) morose  |
| 14 | an intolerable and continuous racial         | (a) complete (b) achieving (c) overbearing (d) grasping  |
| 15 | interfering with corrugated beams            | (a) serious (b) narrow (c) lifted (d) furrowed   |
| 16 | a career abandoning his post                 | (a) retired (b) base villain (c) coward (d) superstitious  |
| 17 | judged by artificial criteria                | (a) discrimination (b) data (c) standards of judgment (d) measures                                     |
| 18 | discreetly parrying the drama                | (a) slightly (b) adroitly (c) viciously (d) revengefully   |
| 19 | speaking softly, almost diffidently          | (a) cordially (b) indifferently (c) shyly (d) apologetically   |
| 20 | a huge book, diffuse and formless            | (a) manual (b) scribbling (c) argumentative (d) inchoate   |
| 21 | striptease, corruption, and dissimulation    | (a) ridicule (b) villainy (c) treachery (d) deception  |
| 22 | a complete dossier of his activities         | (a) analysis (b) repudiation (c) fulsome (d) documented file   |

- 28) the judge dismissed  
her (a) badly scratched (b) paralyzed  
(c) skerry (d) partly healed
- 29) sending the children to  
Washington (a) agents (b) missionaries (c) pro-  
tests (d) delegates
- 30) celebrating and hold-  
ing her captive (a) fascinating (b) smiting (c) re-  
citing (d) encompassing
- 31) a factually real  
woman (a) questionable (b) hungry  
(c) supposedly (d) over-  
carefully
- 32) virtuous the fiscal  
owner of sand even  
deep (a) mechanical (b) financial (c) legal  
(d) yearly
- 33) the child of such  
foresight (a) uncertainty (b) threats (c) ap-  
prehensions (d) apathy
- 34) great legal and ju-  
stice skill (a) pertaining to (b) prophecy (c) pub-  
lic debate (d) outdoor (d) each  
series
- 35) laughing at her in  
credible gash (a) stupidity (b) credibility (c) objec-  
tive (d) capability
- 36) the holder of balls of  
old Carnegie (a) empty (b) welcoming (c) con-  
strained (d) undecorated
- 37) hoping for world  
Argentina (a) regimen (b) vastness (c) domi-  
nance (d) popularity
- 38) accepting their An-  
age very modestly (a) hospitality (b) respect (c) ova-  
tion (d) flattery
- 39) a homogeneity of  
outlook (a) dignity (b) unspiced freshness  
(c) humanity (d) stubbornness
- 40) sale in his unpropen-  
sible fortress (a) impotence (b) uncolored  
(c) body (d) unamiable
- 41) his late marriage,  
dumb (a) impetuous (b) disappointed  
(c) uncultured (d) solemn
- 42) the infallible grace-  
ful cast (a) non-foctally (b) unbeforably  
(c) solely (d) unduly
- 43) referring much from  
the look on her face (a) concluding (b) assuming (c) not  
understanding (d) interrupting
- 44) unchangeable impartial  
of the water (a) unrequested (b) incredible  
(c) unperceptible (d) deluding
- 45) propaganda munda-  
ing the people (a) misleading (b) deluging (c) in-  
fluencing (d) not reaching
- 46) inevitable rights of  
free people (a) inferred (b) inferred (c) inin-  
gible (d) potential
- 47) rising his prospects  
convincably (a) temporarily (b) unnecessarily  
(c) irresponsibly (d) irrevocably
- 48) "Ration," he replied  
deposably (a) tersely (b) meaningly (c) mys-  
teriously (d) incredibly
- 49) driving along the  
North Sea littoral (a) peninsula (b) coastal region  
(c) highway (d) surface

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 37 | a mechanical and unemotional melodrama  | (a) well-planned (b) lowly<br>(c) worthy (d) staged                                   |
| 46 | a mosaic of mathematical symbols  | (a) abundance (b) magnitude<br>(c) conglomeration (d) arrangement                     |
| 47 | falling in good co-<br>existing circles                                       | (a) swinging (b) dizzying (c) in-<br>gratual (d) descending                           |
| 48 | reformed of his<br>brother's pennywise  | (a) sanguine (b) petty (c) wicked-<br>ness (d) sanguine                               |
| 49 | revelation down to<br>the ordinary man  | (a) bubbles (b) films (c) reflects<br>(d) ascends                                     |
| 50 | pungent memories<br>of a sad youth  | (a) briefly distressing (b) nostalgic<br>(c) sensitive (d) almost for-<br>gotten      |
| 51 | the weaker persons<br>also  | (a) sanguine (b) unformed<br>soldier (c) dashed (d) perform                           |
| 52 | the <i>polyglot</i> tongue<br>of New York's East<br>Side                      | (a) foreign (b) overwhelming<br>(c) many-languaged (d) multi-<br>bilingual            |
| 53 | precluding any other<br>conclusion  | (a) facilitating (b) disregarding<br>(c) profiting (d) preventing                     |
| 54 | usually a precursor<br>of heavy snows   | (a) prevention (b) condemnation<br>(c) dissension (d) promise                         |
| 55 | prodigious country<br>petitioners   | (a) recklessly wasteful (b) hypocri-<br>tical (c) falsely promising (d) pi-<br>tiable |
| 56 | the proliferation of<br>atomic weapon<br>stockpiles through-<br>out the world | (a) gradual reduction (b) explosion<br>(c) rapid growth (d) favorable<br>diminution   |
| 57 | storing at such pro-<br>pious statements                                      | (a) weakness (b) counterpoint<br>(c) favorable (d) feeble                             |
| 58 | within the purview<br>of the committee  | (a) right (b) authority (c) approval<br>(d) supervision                               |
| 59 | a woman's voice<br>droning questionably                                       | (a) minutely (b) completely<br>(c) questionably (d) quietly                           |
| 60 | the reconciling pur-<br>suits of the far-out<br>branch of modern<br>theater   | (a) questionable (b) repetitious<br>(c) abstract (d) calculated                       |
| 61 | the grass bending<br>reverently under<br>one's feet                           | (a) however (b) backwards (c) dis-<br>tastefully (d) unchangingly                     |
| 62 | denouncing her in<br>merciless terms  | (a) contemptuous (b) vague (c) shy<br>(d) abusive                                     |
| 63 | the secular interests<br>of the common man                                    | (a) spiritual (b) worldly (c) selfish<br>(d) secret                                   |

# THE COMPANY WORDS KEEPER

64. the sinister sound  
breaking the silence (a) amplified (b) long-drawn-out  
(c) shrill (d) unobtrusive
65. advertisers experi-  
menting with sub-  
liminal appeals (a) under-the-skin (b) scaled  
(c) underhanded (d) uncon-  
scious
66. open to impulse of  
sublimation (a) irration (b) bribery (c) under-  
handedness (d) forgery
67. his face suffused with  
joy (a) transfixed (b) stricken (c) over-  
spread (d) delirious
68. surreptitiously pack-  
eting the fragments  
of food (a) shamelessly (b) speedily  
(c) stealthily (d) nervously
69. under rigid, re-  
stricted surveillance (a) imprisonment (b) legal search  
(c) appraisal (d) close watch
70. nervous, coy, aloof (a) silent (b) nervous (c) indignant  
(d) touchy
71. a misunderstanding  
of basic terminology  
of diplomacy (a) agreement (b) vocabulary  
(c) objectives (d) finality
72. unrelenting hills (a) overwhelming (b) wavelike  
(c) unexpressive (d) mountain-  
like
73. experiencing it vi-  
ciously (a) with enthusiasm (b) religiously  
(c) lamely (d) by proxy
74. dangers and close-  
ness of life (a) changing circumstances (b) un-  
avoidable evil (c) substitute joys  
(d) unexpected thrills
75. a half-conscious  
worried-looking  
candle (a) shriveled (b) waxen (c) re-  
drugged (d) bright

We know that some of the words given in the definitions are more difficult than the words to be defined. But that's just another way of increasing your stock of words (if you looked them up in a dictionary).



"Philonic apparatus!"

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### 3. Divide and Conquer

---

YOU WANT to know something? There are no long words. They only seem that way. When you look a long word squarely in the eye, you find that it is only a lot of little fellows huddled together. The words you consider long are combinations of short words or parts of words written together. The trick is to be able to divide the long word into recognizable short units.

That's not too hard. Imagine what reading a book or a newspaper would be like if all the words were something like

---

\* Drawing reproduced courtesy the Saturday Review



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

this handy guide to separate the individual words you don't know into manageable units. Believe it or not, that's how words used to be putted together in the handwritten books before the invention of printing.

To understand what we wrote above as one continuous word, you had to separate it into its word units. You divided it in order to conquer its meaning. In the same way—by separating a word into its recognizable units—you can often tame the toughest and longest words in the English language.

### WHAT IS THE LONGEST WORD?

When we went to high school, *antidisestablishmentarianism* was generally regarded as the longest word in the language. But there's nothing long or formidable about it, if we divide it into its parts. If we use a verbal scalpel on it, if we cut away the prefixes here and the suffixes aft, we're left with the word *establish*.

*Establish* can be further cut down to the root *sta*, which comes from the Latin verb *stare*, to stand. And so this 28-letter word becomes a three-letter basic root, *s-t-a*, surrounded by a choice collection of prefixes and suffixes. All these parts add up to a word that means an *law*, or *doctrine*, of the *opposition* (*anti*) to the *separation* (*dis*) of an *established* church from the *state*.

As a long word *antidisestablishmentarianism* belongs to the past, and we wouldn't even think of entering it in a longest-word contest today. Back in 1939, in reply to a query, the editors wrote that the longest word in Webster's *New International Dictionary* was:

**PNEUMONULTRAMICROSCOPICOLICOLITHCANVACUOLITIS.**

Forty-five letters long! But we said there were no long words and now we're going to prove it by breaking that giant into very fine particles. Here goes:

pneumo-	pertaining to the lungs, as in pneumonia
ultra-	beyond, as in ultraviolet rays
micro-	small, as in microscope
scopos;	from the root of Greek verb <i>skopein</i> , to view or look at
olico-	from the element <i>silicon</i> , found in quartz, flint, and sand

## DIVIDE AND CONQUER

volcano-	the meaning of this is obvious
nost:	the principal root, from a Greek word for dust
nos.	a suffix indicating illness, as in <i>melancholia</i>

Now, putting the parts together again, we deduce that *psorosomachronostocostoplasticostomachronostoc* is a disease of the lungs caused by extremely small particles of volcanic ash and dust.

In John Hersey's novel *The Child Buyer*, Barry Redd, a ten-year-old genius, who loved to swap long words as other boys swap stamps, found these two long words "old hat." This is what Miss Fernin in the novel said of him.

It's uncanny the way Barry can decipher these marathon words. John Sano brought one in the other day and asked Barry what it meant—*eccentrostochordodysplasia*, and Barry didn't bat an eye. "Let's see," he says. "Eccentro- means off center, out of line, -choir-, bone; -chordro-, cartilage; -dys-, wrong or bad, -plasia, conformation. Guess that gives you the main idea, John," he says. He's very offhand but not at all superior about it.\*

Science indeed has marched on with seven-league boots since 1939 and we have only to glance at our newspapers to know that the length of words for new chemical compounds has kept pace with science. Not to settle any arguments, but just as a curiosity, we throw in the longest word we have come across. It is the name of a new drug announced by the *Journal of the American Paediatric Medical Association*. Here it comes, take a deep breath:

DIISOBUTYLPHENOXYETHOXYETHYL-DI-METHYLBENZYLAMMONIUMCHLORIDE

## BARNUM'S WORD

Yes, if you can divide a word properly you can generally conquer it. You will no longer be afraid of a long word, and you won't be fooled by a short one as some of P. T. Barnum's patrons once were. Before his famous circus days, Barnum ran an equally famous museum in lower Manhattan. People liked the exhibits so much they just kept going around and

\*From *The Child Buyer* by John Hersey (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1948).

around and staying so long that others couldn't get in. Being an astute businessman, Barozzi tried to find a way out for himself and for customers who overstayed their welcome. Over the cage of the tiger and her cub, he placed a large sign reading, "vacant." Then, over a doorway next to the cage, he put up another large sign which read: "no vac rooms." Thinking they were going to see some new comedy, many of those in the crowded museum trooped through the door—and found themselves in the street!

But those who knew how to divide the word *agress* into its recognizable units weren't fooled. They saw *ex*, a prefix meaning out, and *gress*, a Latin stem meaning *step*, so that they knew that an *agress* was nothing more than a stepping-out place, in fact. We find *gress* in *progress*, to step forward (*pro*), in *digress*, to step away (*di*) or depart from a topic, in *retrogress*, to step backward (*re*), and in *transgress*, to step across (*trans*) the line of righteousness. How much more meaning is attached to a word like *transgression* when you realize that its meaning of sin is connected with the idea of stepping across the line that divides right from wrong!

That's the way to divide many words, long or short, strange or familiar. Let's try our scalpel on one or two other words to see just how it helps. (The word *unperturbable* may puzzle you for a moment. But then you quickly recognize that *un*, *per*, and *able* are not the basic units. Cutting them away, you lay bare the root *turb*. *Turb* appears in *disturb*, *perturb*, *turbulent*, and *perturbation*, and whenever it occurs it spells trouble. Troubled waters are *turbid*. An unperturbable person is, therefore, one whose spirits cannot be troubled or ruffled, one who is calm and serene.

A headline about one of the trouble spots of the world tells us that in Pakistan

## MOSLEMS EXCULPATE ENEMIES TO AVOID REPRISALS

Here's *exculpate*, a really difficult word. But it's easy to cut away the prefix *ex* and the suffix *ate* and expose the root *culp*, which comes from the Latin word *culpa* meaning fault or blame. To *exculpate* is therefore to free from (*ex*) blame. To *inculpate* is to charge with blame. We can help fix the meaning of the root *culp* by associating it with other words in which it occurs. A *culprit* is the person at fault. *Culpable*

means deserving of blame, and culpability is blame or guilt. A culpable person is a culprit whose culpability has been established. If he is not culpable, exculpatory evidence will set him free.

We can see that glazed, faraway look coming into your eyes. We can hear you saying:

"Wait a minute, fellows! I didn't come here to learn Latin and Greek. I want to know more about English words. I never took up Greek and all I remember of my high school Latin is *amo, amas, amat* and that Caesar once said, '*Veni, vidi, vici.*' I can't go through all that again."

Relax! We're not asking you to learn Latin and Greek. We are asking you to learn the English elements that come from Greek and Latin words, not as remnants or remnants of dead languages but as vital parts of the living and growing language you speak and write. Latin and Greek form the basis of about 70 per cent of all English words—with new words from Latin and Greek constantly being added.

So it's not our fault that Latin and Greek are at the roots of so many of our words. It makes us feel like the small boy who was returning a book to the library. The librarian was turning the pages of the book, when she noticed how small the little boy was.

"This is rather technical, isn't it?" she asked, holding the book open before her.

Half defiant, half apologetic, the little boy replied, "It was that way when I got it."

Well, English words were that way when we got them—studded with Latin and Greek roots in a setting of Latin and Greek prefixes and suffixes. That's our defiant apology.

It is because we want you to know more about English words that we think it is necessary to acquire a knowledge of the live roots of these not-so-dead languages. What's more, this isn't the hard way; it's the interesting and therefore the easy way. It is also the permanent way.

Dividing a word into its recognizable units can accomplish the following:

1. Let light in on a familiar word. It illuminates it. It makes you see it as you have never seen it before.
2. Make a long unfamiliar word seem less formidable. You handle one part at a time and so conquer the whole word.
3. Help you remember the word, because you associate other similarly rooted words with it.

4. Help you spell the word correctly (See Chapter 15)

Finally, if you learn to separate a word into its units, you will be able to come away from a long word and say, "Fare, share, now I came, I divided, I conquered!"

If you use the method of Divide and Conquer you must, of course, learn the meanings of the roots. Be sure to associate a word with its root. We are going to give you ten words on which you can practice. We shall supply the meaning of the roots and stems; you will select the meaning of the words from the list on the right. Answers will be found on page 362.

Example: If *nov* means "new" then to *renovate* means to make new again.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Indubitably<br>dub-—doubt               | a scattering or spreading abroad<br>like seeds   |
| 2. Comorbidity<br>morb-—strength           | b put off  |
| 3. Indelibility<br>firm-—to weary, to tire | c. unchangeable                                  |
| 4. Procrastinate<br>cras-—tomorrow         | d generosity                                     |
| 5. Provenance<br>stir-—feel                | e confirmation                                   |
| 6. Inevitable<br>sort-—change              | f doubtless                                      |
| 7. Imperviousness<br>vis-—(fed. way)       | g a feeling that something is going<br>to happen |
| 8. Perspicacious<br>vis-—look, see         | h transparent                                    |
| 9. Denomination<br>den-—said               | i having keen mental vision                      |
| 10. Inconspicuous<br>nov-—new              | j quality of not allowing a passage<br>through   |
|  | k. inability to be measured, quanti-<br>fied     |
|  | l. inability to be tried                         |

## THE GREEKS HAD A LONG WORD

The longest word in print in any language is the combination concocted by Aristophanes: *hapaxhemerologion* *leontochelydonichthysophotoperipetelion* *triophthalmos* *centrobolochely* *menelichthys* *kataphotoperipetelion* *trypanotaphallos* *glioelichthys* *triophthalmos* *peripetelion*.<sup>\*</sup> Aristophanes threw into it oysters and fish and sharks and cheese and birds

<sup>\*</sup> Found in Bartholomew, "Women in Parliament."

and other delicacies so that appropriately the word means nothing more than Asch.

## SHAKESPEARE HAD A LONG WORD

Comed says in Act V of *Love's Labour's Lost*: "I marvel thy master hath not eaten thee for a word: for thou art not so long by the head as *homocidaliterisidelerides*," which is from a medieval nonsense word for "homocideism."

## THE ENGLISH SCHOOLBOY'S LONG WORD

From a rule in a Latin grammar used by the boys at Eton was coined the word *flourescensultiplication*, which means nothing more than "the act of estimating as worthiness."

## A LONG WORD MAY SOMETIMES BE A SHORT CUT

A lot is being said these days against the use of long words and in favor of the short, vigorous, direct word. That's all to the good and we're all for it, but before the movement frightens us out of using any but one-syllable words, we'd like to get in a word for the long word in the right place.

There are times when the long word gets you there faster. It's a little like the story of the applicant who was being interviewed by a prospective employer. "And do you take short-hand?" she was asked. "I do," she replied, "but that way usually takes longer." In the same way, the short words may sometimes be the long way around.

We learn that Congress has authorized an equestrian statue of some great American general. How else are you going to describe the statue? You can't say a hony statue. That doesn't quite get the idea. To get the idea you would have to say something like "a statue in which the figure is mounted on a horse." All that for equestrian!

An editorial writer tells us that critics of Congress "will reach its quadrennial peak this fall." You lose something besides brevity and smoothness if you try to substitute a string of short words for the one long word. Somehow a "quadrennial peak" is higher than one "that is reached every four years."

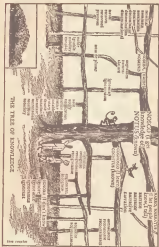
Another such word that has been appearing is just recently

is *eponymy*, a long short cut for "from the book (or whatever) of the same name." In highlighting *Fiorello*, a musical based on the life of former Mayor La Guardia, the *New Yorker* refers to the actor Tom Bosley as "a dead ringer for the *eponymous* Bowser." John K. Hutchinson, writing in the *Herald Tribune* of February 8, 1968, tells us that E. M. Forster in his book *Alexander the Great* lauds the Great for "defeating the Persian enemies of the Greeks and bringing Hellenic culture to his *eponymous* city."

Here, *eponymous* means "named after him," or "to which he gave his name." Its dictionary meaning is "giving one's name to a tribe, people, nation, or place."

*Knowledge of words spreads its roots like the bayonet tree.*

Though there are times when the long word is the short cut, that doesn't mean we approve of the pompous, pretentious long word that leads down the road to "gobbledygook." We are in complete sympathy with Marry Maxwell, who coined the word *gobbledygook*, and with the order he issued while head of a bureau in Washington. The order read in part, "Be short, and use plain English. A memorandum should be as short as common sense will allow. Stay off gobbledygook language. . . . Anyone using the words *activation* or *implementation* will be shot."





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## 4. Deep Are the Roots

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AMONG THE famous sights of India which the tourist is told not to miss is a banyan tree that grows near Calcutta. When you reach the site a few miles from that city, you look for a solitary tree. What you see is a miniature forest, and at first glance, you are disappointed. "I've seen bigger trees in California," you say to yourself, and you wonder why you were bothered over rough roads for this.

But then, like the others, you look around more carefully. You walk into the "forest" and around the trees which seem to form its borders—and you make a discovery. What you thought was a forest is one tree—a remarkable tree that's a hundred trees in one! The branches of the parent tree send down shoots that reach the ground, take root, and develop new trunks. These accessory trunks form a connected cluster or grove. That's why you think you are looking at a forest instead of a single tree.

The banyan tree is a remarkable tree but no more remarkable than our *tree of knowledge*. (See facing page.) For words grow like the banyan tree. The original parent (in this case *source*) sends out roots which in turn develop clusters of accessory roots and stems found in cognates, *rowers*, *gaucro*, *sawro*.<sup>\*</sup> Together they form a family of hundreds of related words.

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<sup>\*</sup> Roots and stems are elements from which words are built or grow. Although there is a technical difference between a root and a stem, most modern popular books on words tend not to make a distinction.

And yet the tree of knowledge as we have represented it here is only a bird's-eye view. The tip of a camera in a room-nursance plane would reveal another part of the forest where Greek and Anglo-Saxon trunks send out their branches and roots. We would have to add such words as *diagnosis*, *propaganda*, *agendas*, *gausses*, *anachronisms*, *homonyms*, *metonymy*, *patronyms*, *onomatopoeia*, *paronomasia* (Greek), and *lexis*, *onoma*, *euonym*, *acknowledgment* (Anglo-Saxon).

From this tree of knowledge we're going to pick only a few of the most useful and unusual words for special mention.

Sometimes a word suggests or implies more than its dictionary meaning—emotions and memories cling to it. This overtone of the word is called its *connotation*—and that connotation may be good or bad. The word *home*, for example, has always had a good connotation; it suggests comfort, warmth, privacy, love. On the other hand the memories of World War II have given the word *collaborator* a bad connotation. Charles Moore in a book review asks, "Collaborator—will that word ever lose its traitorous connotation?"

The word *misnomer* almost always has a bad connotation. We use it to refer to something that in our opinion doesn't live up to its name.

[Tourist cabin] called Klean Kamp  
Comfort may turn out to be a hideous  
misnomer covering conditions that will  
be something to shudder at for days.

## NAME CALLING

Nomenclature is "name calling" in its good sense—referring to a system of assigning names to classifications in the animal, vegetable, and mineral world.

Man has always prized his good name. When he loses it, when he is publicly disgraced, he suffers grievously.

Sometimes we can go too far in trying to fit the word name into definitions of these words. That's what probably happened to a coast young thing who was filling out an application form. When it asked for "denominational preference," she wrote, "I like to be called Betty." Denominational, as used here, refers, of course, to a religious sect having a common faith and a distinctive name.

It was on the sports page that we came across the word

## DEEP ARE THE ROOTS

*connoisseurs* (pronounced "con yoh shan' tee"). The writer was telling about the probable reaction of "the connoisseurs among the 14,000 fans on hand." The connoisseurs\* are those who "know what the score is," those who know their stuff. Like its French twin, *connoisseur*, it is used to describe those who are experts in the fine arts (including wine, women, and baseball).

### WORD FAMILIES

So much for the specific words that belong to the *nosco* family. You're going to become acquainted with the names of many of our leading word families. As you do so, you will discover that you will be getting a better insight into familiar words and learning a way of comprehending new ones. You'll begin to associate words in clusters as we did with the *sal*, *an*, *suit*, *sault* family in Chapter 1.

And don't be frightened. Not all word families are as large or as varied as those that stem from *nosco* on our tree of knowledge. Many exist only as compact clusters like those gathered around *grex*, *gregal*. *Latus* for broad or flock. To *congregate* means to flock together (*esse*). A pastor is the spiritual shepherd of his flock or congregation. To segregate is to keep apart (*se*) or separate from others. An egregious error stands out (*ex*) from the common or ordinary flock of mistakes. An aggregate is the sum total, the units of the flock added to (*ag* for *ad*) each other. Those who don't like to be alone, who want and seek the company of others are *gregarious*.

There's something very relaxing and comforting about the root *gato*. It gives you a feeling of security. It's always spelled *g-a-t-o*, and it always means *flock*.

### DON'T PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT

But some roots fool you. They look like members of the same family but on closer inspection turn out to be impostors!

There's the familiar Latin root *pes* meaning foot. It has left its imprint on a great many English words. We easily recognize its footprints in *pedestrian*, *pedal*, *pedometer*, *pedestal*, *quadruped*, and *centipede*.

There are other words in which we do not so easily see *ped*

\* *Connoisseur*, the plural, is generally used, as here. The singular *connoisseur* is hardly ever seen.

how the shoe fits. To impose someone's program is to place something in the way of his feet, thus barring his way or tripping him up. To expedite means to do just the opposite. At a U.N. Security Council meeting, the American delegate was trying to explain the literal meaning of this word. He was speaking about "expediting" the report of the Atomic Energy Committee. After mentioning that the word expedite was Latin in origin, he went on to say:

You know its derivation. I can see a very distinguished doctor here, who realizes that this word is derived, has something to do with pediatrics, and the use of this word is specific, has a specific meaning, is derived from the past participle of the word expedire, that is, to let go of the feet.

Right here the American delegate put his foot in it. Though many people share the same confusion, a pediatrist does not specialize in diseases of the feet, he specializes in children's diseases. The *ped* in his title is an altered spelling of *pais*, *paider*, the Greek word for boy or child. It appears in *pedagogue*, which once meant a slave who led a boy to school and took care of him at home. An orthopedist, like the pediatrist, is a specialist. He corrects (ortho, correct or right) or prevents body deformities, especially in children.

Of course, our American delegate confused pediatrist with pedastist. The Greek word for foot is *pod* (also written as *pus*), *podus*. An arthropod is an animal with jointed feet like a lobster or a spider. A *podium* is a pedestal or platform. The antipodes are the lands "down under." It once meant the people living on the other side of the globe, whose feet were directly opposite (*anti*) ours. The word is also used without geographical reference in the sense of the exact opposite. The form *pus* is seen in octopus, which is all feet, eight of them, and in the distinguished zoological visitor from the antipodes, the platypus, who is nothing more than a flat-foot!

So we can see that we are dealing with at least three kinds of roots:

1. Those like *hemp* that spread like a bayon tree.
2. Those like *can* that form a compact, easily identifiable cluster.
3. Those like *pus* that can fool you if you don't watch out.

## WORDS OF CAUTION

That's why we don't recommend the use of roots as an exclusive method of arriving at the meanings of words. When you aren't sure of the meaning of a word, the method should be used with circumspection.

But we do recommend the "root" method after you know the meaning of the word. Then a knowledge of a word's derivation does two important things for you that nothing else can do:

1. It gives you a greater insight into the significance of a familiar word, revealing its inner meaning. Take the word *receding* just used. It's a familiar word, but its meaning is enriched when you know that it means drawing back (*re*) the veil.

2. It gives you a way of permanently fixing a new word. Take *circumspection* which we used a little while ago. It means *caution*, but when you also know that by derivation it means looking (*spect*) around (*circum*) before going ahead, the meaning of the word is not only enriched but it is fixed in your memory.

So when you deal with roots, don't put your foot in it. Put your thumb—into a good dictionary and pull out the correct derivation. Always check!

## A FINAL WARNING

As we have already pointed out, you can go way out on a limb unless you properly identify the root. If you are not careful, you may make the mistake a pupil of ours made when he was confronted by—

ANSWERS: (a) incorruptible (b) religious (c) capable of being persuaded (d) stubborn

Relying on his idea of the use of the root-suffix method, he checked (b) religious. When asked how he had arrived at that answer he triumphantly replied, "Well, the suffix *able*, of course, means 'able,' and *re-* means what is says, 'amens', so if you're able to say 'amen' you're religious!"

The correct answer, of course, is (c) *capable of being persuaded*. The root of *amenable* is found in the Greek verbs *menen* and *anenen* (a, to), meaning "to lead, to bring in, to conduct", and as the word *amenable* means "easily led, submissive, tractable, responsive, docile." From the root *men*,

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

we get also the words *promenade*, *avenue*, *demonstrate*, and *mis-demonstrate*.

And now let's check on your knowledge of roots. Answers to these tests will be found on page 362.

In Exercises I and II below, each dot represents a letter.

### I What Do You Know?

The Greek root *gno* means *know*.

1 The prefix *g* says "No" or "Not." An *agnostic* is therefore a person who says "I don't . . ." when asked about the existence of God.

2 *Pro* means *before*. *Prognosis* is therefore literally *fore-* . . . and a medical prognosis is the art of . . . telling the course of a disease.

3 *Di* means *between* or *apart*. When a doctor *diagnoses* between symptoms of various illnesses to discover what ails a patient, he is making a *di* . . .

4 The pointer on a sundial that lets you know the time of day by its shadow is called a . . . *noon*.

5 The dwarfs who guarded the treasures in *gnomes* were called . . . because they were considered wise little fellows.

6 A *gnosis* saying is also known as a *proverb*. Writing or speaking that is full of maxims and wise sayings is called . . . *gnosis*.

### II Can You Name These?

The Greek *nomos* and *onyma* mean *name*. They belong on the side of knowledge for a *name* is something by which a person or thing is known.

In the column on the left are eight English words containing a Greek root meaning *name*. On the right are the meanings of the prefixes or other roots in these words. Using all eight words, complete the sentences below the lists.

<i>onymonym</i>	<i>anti</i>
<i>anonym</i>	<i>against</i>
<i>honym</i>	<i>time</i>
<i>onomatopoeia</i>	<i>making</i>
<i>ponomonia</i>	<i>heards</i>
<i>pononym</i>	<i>farther</i>
<i>pononym</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>synonym</i>	<i>together</i>

## WORDS ARE THE THINGS

1. Words like *here* and *hew* that sound the same but are spelled differently are called . . . *onyms*.

2. Words like *black* and *white* that are opposites are called . . . *onyms*.

3. The unnamed author to whom most anecdotes are attributed is . . . . .

4. Names like *McDonald* and *Johnson* are called . . . *onyms* because they indicate that the sons are named after the father.

5. Different words like *sharp* and *keen* that have similar meanings are called . . . *onyms*.

6. Another name for punning is . . . *onomasia*.

7. Words like *buzz* and *hum* made by imitating sounds are examples of . . . . .

8. William Sydney Porter is better known by his . . . *onym* of O. Henry.

## III. Take Your Fill

The words on the left are filled with the idea of *completeness*. From the definitions in the columns on the right select the ones that will most closely match each of the words on the left.

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. plenary         | a. superfluous use of words      |
| 2. plenipotentiary | b. overabundance                 |
| 3. plethora        | c. fulness                       |
| 4. plenitude       | d. having full powers            |
| 5. plenum          | e. fully attended                |
| 6. plenary         | f. fulfillment                   |
| 7. deplete         | g. filled with                   |
| 8. copious         | h. full meeting                  |
| 9. replenish       | i. fill again                    |
| 10. replete        | j. empty                         |
|                    | k. expression used as a "filler" |

## IV. One Root's Family

A. *GEN* is a Latin and Greek root meaning to give birth to. This prolific root has given birth to nearly one hundred English words.

In each of the sentences below, we have substituted an indicated word for the word originally used. The original word contained the root *GEN*. Can you put the original *GEN* word back in its proper place by choosing from among these words;

indigenous, property, generation, engendered, genera, degenerated?

1. War's origin lies in the despotic lust for power (General MacArthur).

2. Prodded by his wife and his restless offspring, he rushed frantically to his agent.

3. The TV network has conceived of "neutral names." What's that? Names that are not native to any one group.

4. In the heat of the excitement created by the big Chicago boat Misses George had forgotten about the 2500-mile bicycle race around France.

B. Match the phrases on the right with the words on the left.

- |                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. gene        | a. existing from birth           |
| 2. cognate     | b. study of the family tree      |
| 3. engendered  | c. inheritance by the first born |
| 4. genealogy   | d. unit or factor of heredity    |
| 5. progeniture | e. source of impending offspring |
| 6. psychogene  | f. born as or caused by the mind |

## V. To Tell of Time

A. *chronos* is a Greek root meaning time. On the left are six words that deal with time. Match them with the definitions on the right.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. synchronous | a. story of events in order of time    |
| 2. chronology  | b. timeless                            |
| 3. anachronism | c. lasting a long time                 |
| 4. chronometer | d. science of measuring time           |
| 5. chronic     | e. make agree in time                  |
| 6. chronicle   | f. event placed out of its proper time |

B. *tempus* is the Latin root corresponding to *chronos*. Using this root or part of it, complete the word fragments to form the words defined. The dots represent the number of additional letters needed. We'll help you in some places with a prefix.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. contempor . . . | happening at the present or same time                 |
| 2. tempo . . .     | to act to pace time; to delay                         |
| 3. temp .          | relative rate of speed as cause; pattern of activity  |
| 4. tempo . . . . . | used or composed on the spur of the moment; impromptu |
| 5. tempo . .       | not permanent; secular as opposed to spiritual        |
| 6. tempo . . .     | for the time being                                    |





"We learned a new word today, Momma. Try and describe what it is. I'll give you three guesses." \*

---

## 5. Brief Encounters

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ONE DAY not long ago, red pencil in hand, we read through a copy of the New York Times in search of the longest words we could find. We set fifteen letters as the minimum. We found exactly eleven words containing fifteen letters or more. Here

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\* Quoting reproduced courtesy the Saturday Review.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

they are in the order in which we found them.

disastrously  
ineffectively  
constitutionally  
independently  
proportionately  
disfranchisement

internationally  
overwhelmingly  
superstendancy  
classification  
dissatisfaction

Easy, aren't they? These are the longest words we found in one day's newspaper, and yet you would have little trouble in identifying at least ten of them correctly. It's not the length of a word that makes it hard, it's the density. These long words are transparent. You can look right through them at the words *action*, *effect*, *constitution*, *franchise*, etc. It's easy to divide and conquer.

Now look at these eleven words—*over*, *crux*, *down*, *flat*, *knew*, *here*, *mine*, *sore*, [*we*], *some*, *lost*. These three-and four-letter words—brief excursions in our newspaper reading—have density. If you can identify ten out of these eleven correctly, you're doing very well indeed. Not that they're so hard. We have harder ones for you later on, but right now how about trying these eleven?

Test your ability by selecting the definition you think closest in meaning:

- OVER** — assert, turn away, despite, declare  
**CRUX** — outcome, critical point, handle-holder, weakness  
**DOWN** — meeting, thrifty, store, stage  
**FLAT** — failure, down, success, message  
**KNEW** — glass, Russian coin, old book, stage  
**LEW** — draw, threshold, true, decide  
**MIN** — machine, mask, actor in a dumb show, pretense  
**SORE** — give, debate, drunk, declare  
**[we]** — incorrect, thus, always, again  
**SOME** — movement, estate, book, pause  
**LOST** — cake, tightness, vessel, wrongful act

We chose these short words because, with the exception of [*we*], they are not dead-end words. They are through streets to a larger and richer vocabulary. Here's how:

### OVER

To *over* is to assert positively, as if you were sure you pos-

assess the truth, as in the headline:

## AYERS REPUBLICANS CAN SHOW THE WAY

The root *ver* (*veri*) means true and gives us a better insight into such familiar words as:

very, verily	truth.
verity	truth, most often used in plural and with eternal.
veracity	truthfulness.
veracious	truthful.
verdict	a true saying; therefore a presumably just judgment made on the basis of verified evidence.

And here is one that may be new to you:

verisimilitude — likeness to truth or reality.

Can you find the superfluous word in this picture caption that we found in a magazine?

Although Miss (Lana) Turner insists she played softball while in high school, she attained true verisimilitude only when she struck out with a grunt.

Pooh-Bah, in W. S. Gilbert's *Mikado*, uses the word in its true sense when he explains the gruesome evidence he has given us, "Mostly corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative."

## CROSS

*crux* is the Latin word for cross. The *crux* of a matter is the point that needs to be decided or resolved in order to clear up the situation—be it the crucial or critical point.

Mr. (Ronald) H.H. comes to the *crux* of the whole German problem when he writes: "The Allies had to make peace with each other before they could make peace with Germany."

The cross as a religious symbol appears in the words crucifix, Crusade, crucifier, one who carries the cross at the head of a religious procession, and crucible, originally a hanging lamp, the eternal light hanging before the cross of Christ.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

**Crossform** means shaped like a cross. **Cross** comes to us via Dutch; its original meaning is to move *across*, or to sail *across*.

Because the Romans used the cross as a form of capital punishment, we get the idea of agony and torture in the word *crossing*.

### DOUR

**dour**, which rhymes with *sour*, means *hard*, *severe*, *stout* (in appearance). There's nothing pleasant about the newspaper headline:

### EASTER WEATHER FORECAST IS DOUR

**dour**, which is frequently used in Scotland, goes back to *durus*, the Latin word for *hard*. But most of the words that come from it are easy, such as *shoring*, *enduring*, *double*, *duration*.

An *obdurate* person is one who is hard to move, unyielding, obstinate. When you do something "under *dure*," you are doing it the hard way—under threat or coercion. A morally hardened or callous person is said to be *indurated*.

### FIAT

**FIAT** is a complete Latin sentence meaning, "Let it be done." Therefore, the English word *fiat* (rhyming with *riot*) means an authoritative order or decree.

With wages held down by Government *fiat* while the cost of living soars, the workers are becoming increasingly *indignant*.

**FIAT** may also be translated as "Let there be made," or "Let there be," as in *Fiat lux*, "Let there be light."

**FIAT** is a form of the verb *facere*, to do or make, which in its various guises, *FAC*, *FO*, *FE*, *FACT*, *FECT*, etc. has made thousands of English words. We list here only a few—those that are difficult or that are hard to recognize as members of the family:

**factious** is the adjective form of *faction* and means "making trouble," causing dissension.

**factitious** means "made up," hence artificial, not genuine, spurious.

**surfeit** (via French) means an "overdoing," an excess. If

you are *saturated* you have "overdone" (*sur, from supra, over*) something, you've had more than enough even of a good thing.

**PUISH** (*via Portuguese*) originally meant an idol or charm which was believed to possess magical power and was worshipped by the owner. Today we generally use the word figuratively. We say a person makes a *puish* of some object, idea, or belief if he has a blind or unreasoning affection for it.

**FEASIBLE** (*via French*) means "do-able." A *feasible* plan is one that is practicable, workable. *Malfeasance* is "wrong-doing," especially official misconduct. A right that is *indefeasible* is one that cannot be defeated or undone.

**ARTIFACTS** are things that man has made, especially relics of simple, primitive art. Describing the expedition of Professor Charles L. Camp in search of traces of man who lived a million years ago, the New York Times said:

While the search will be carried on for complete specimens of the earliest human and for the artifacts that will throw light on his manner of living, Professor Camp hopes for the early discovery of a major clue.

## ICON

An *icon* (*also ikon*) is an image, a statue. An *iconoclast*, literally a smasher of idols, is one who attacks cherished beliefs, who does not respect conventional ideas.

Since Homer Yankee played as a sprout, a mascot, an iconoclast and a practical joker who is no respecter of age, position, or previous condition of acrobats in the big leagues.

## LIMN

To *limn* (*also skint n*) is to paint or depict. It is the collapsed form of *limbinate*, one of whose meanings is to decorate with colored designs or initial letters, as in medieval manuscripts.

Here, as in his Night Cafe and Hospital, he [Van Gogh] not only limns the actual scene but accents a mood which drives men into such brutality.

**LUMEN** and the related Latin root *luc* light up so many

English words that we can list only a few:

<i>lucenary</i>	"a shining light."
<i>luculent</i>	shining.
<i>lucid</i>	clear.
<i>elucidate</i>	light up, clarify.
<i>pellucid</i>	crystal clear, as being the peaks <i>per, through</i> , to mean the midnight oil in laborious studies.
<i>lucubrations</i>	Hence the word <i>lucubrations</i> is strictly complimentary, since it implies a product that is too polished, "smelling of the lamp."
<i>lucis</i>	A trade name for a translucent plastic (paralucens, letting light but not the image through).

## MIME

A *mime* (Latin *mimus*, Greek *mimos*) is an actor who *mimes* or *imitates*. Other members of this theatrical family are:

<i>mimetic</i>	imitation
<i>mimetic</i>	adjective form of <i>mimetic</i> , meaning imitating or quick to imitate.
<i>periphrase</i>	literally "all encompassing," acting that is unaccompanied by words.
<i>mimicry</i>	the art of mimicking (in radio—imitating the croaking of croakers, barking of dogs; in nature—an animal's or plant's ability to imitate its background as a means of self-protection).
<i>mimosa</i>	a sensitive tropical plant so called because it puts on an act—curling its leaves when touched.
<i>mimograph</i>	a coined trademark word for a copying machine invented by Thomas A. Edison and much used by Electrical Power agents.

## SATE

Had enough? Then you are *sated*: you're fully satisfied. (Latin *satis*, enough, + *fy*, made.) In fact, you are in a state of *satiety*.

An insatiable curiosity is one that cannot be satisfied.

That oceanography is an insatiable science, constantly asking for more facts.

## [SIC]

*sic* is a Latin word meaning *thus* or *so*. In English it always comes wrapped in parentheses or brackets and is used

into a quoted passage thus:

"We have demonstrated that our is a united party, with a sound, forward-looking program in contrast with the divided Democrat [sic] party dominated by quackery, radical masters," the Senator declared.

The [sic] points an accusing finger at the word immediately before it and says for the writer who has tacked it into the quotation, "This is the way it appeared in the original. Don't hold me responsible for this misquoting or misusage. I know better." When a writer really wants to rub it in, he puts an exclamation mark after *sic*, thus [sic!]

Though *sic* doesn't form the basis for any long words, it does appear in two frequently quoted Latin sentences.

*Sic semper tyrannis!*

This always to tyrants!

*Sic transit gloria mundi.*

So passes away the glory of the world.

### TONE

A **TONE** (from Greek *tonos*, a slice; a piece cut off) was originally a book that formed part of a larger work.

Today we use *tone* in a humorous way for any book, or specifically for a heavy book. When we cut away all the non-essential material of a *tone* and leave only the essence left, we give an *epitome*, or condensation of it. The word *epitome* is more often used in the sense of an embodiment or distillation of characteristic qualities, as when we say, "She is the epitome of grace."

The ending *ectomy* (*ec*, out) is strictly a surgical cutting, from *appendectomy* to *tonsillectomy*.

An *avow* was so named because it was thought to be uncuttable. Modern scientists have nullified the effect of the negative prefix *a*, they have split the unsplitable.

### TORT

A **TORT** is a legal term for a special type of wrongful act. The Latin word *tortus* means twisted or crooked. *Tort* has animated its way into a number of English words.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <i>revert</i>  | to bring back a reply, the perfect rebuttal being one by which your opponent's statement or argument is turned against him |
| <i>distort</i> | to twist out of shape.   |

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

contort	to twist together or upon itself; a face can be contorted with pain; a contortionist can do it peculiarly with his body
coerce	to bend one by force
concoction	a nose twister, so named because of its pungent odor.
torture	twisting parts of the body has always been a form of torture

And so our tortuous path has led us through a maze of words and right back to another group of three- and four-letter words which we challenge you to get your wisdom teeth into. They have all appeared in our newspaper reading. How many can you get right? Answers will be found on page 363.

### I. SELECTED SHORT SUBJECTS

A score of 25-30 is excellent, 20-25 good, 15-20 fair.

1. ABFT (a) wager (b) defeat (c) consent (d) encourage
2. ABIB (a) dream (b) barren (c) refreshing (d) eager
3. AURA (a) coronet (b) perfume (c) atmosphere (d) design
4. BAFT (a) run (b) stimulation (c) well-known (d) prohibition
5. BOOT (a) golf stick (b) bagbear (c) darkness (d) vehicle
6. BYOB (a) funeral (b) fern (c) fern (d) shrub
7. CODA (a) end song (b) secret writing (c) poem (d) concluding passage
8. DAIT (a) mixed platform (b) district (c) after-dinner speaker (d) easy chair
9. DEED (a) mountain (b) dreadful (c) tough (d) showy
10. DEVA (a) dancer (b) sculptress (c) temptress (d) prima donna
11. DEE (a) exclaim (b) skin out (c) supplement (d) live
12. FLICK (a) grouping (b) change (c) failure (d) conclusion
13. GIFT (a) explanation (b) essence (c) shadow (d) climax
14. HOPE (a) very small quantity (b) member (c) fine distinction (d) detail
15. KEN (a) large oven (b) small cure (c) pot (d) crust
16. LAVE (a) heat (b) dislike (c) wash (d) depart
17. MIRM (a) eager (b) hearing (c) Chinese vase (d) compromise
18. MOOT (a) frequent (b) debatable (c) important (d) flying
19. MOTE (a) blind spot (b) distance (c) speck of dust (d) method
20. MUB (a) wheel (b) crust (c) termination (d) solution
21. OLIO (a) ed. enclosed (b) yodel (c) melody (d) heated substance



## BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

21. **ONL** (a) hardship (b) place of music (c) burden (d) shame
22. **OPT** (a) hope (b) make a choice (c) look into (d) change
23. **PALL** (a) long stick (b) facial expression (c) gloomy covering (d) candle
24. **PIDN** (a) flower (b) plant (c) Mexican laborer (d) song of praise
25. **RIPR** (a) prevailing (b) commonplace (c) luxurious (d) rebellious
26. **SILT** (a) small opening (b) excuse (c) leather (d) soft-soled
27. **TALT** (a) relaxed (b) betrayed (c) tense (d) straight
28. **TYNO** (a) cruel person (b) beginner (c) rich man (d) reticence
29. **WERN** (a) old man (b) terror (c) dawn (d) oddity

## II Cornerstones

Short words are often used as the cornerstones on which larger words are constructed. The italicized words in the excerpts quoted below have come from the short words printed in capitals or from their roots. Using your knowledge of the shorter words, select the correct meaning of the longer words from the four choices given at the end of each excerpt.

### 1. **LAVE** (Roots **LAV**, **LOV**, **LOT**)

The great silt-bearing rivers from the northwest and northeast, with other streams and channels meandering across Bengal, have built up a vast alluvial plain.

- (a) fertile (b) densely populated (c) distant (d) deposited by running water

### 2. **FLAT** (Roots **FECT**, **FAC**, **FIC**, etc.)

General Hasek's *defection* is considered to be of major military importance, since he was at the top hierarchy in the Czechoslovak military structure.

- (a) allegiance (b) desertion (c) rise (d) loyalty

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### 3. vile (Root vil-)

It was Blaine's conclusion that no person in public life had been *viled* as had been Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay.

(a) honored (b) excelled (c) analyzed (d) esteemed

### 4. ovine (Root ovin-)

In spite of our Government's sincere belief in the *innocence* of these organizations, two of them, the SS and the general staff, were *accused*.

(a) praised (b) convicted (c) freed from charges (d) persuaded off

### 5. bore (Root port-)

We are becoming *indured* to thinking, without too much of a shudder, of *imagining* some city of a million men, women, and children "on the other side of the globe."

(a) encouraged (b) hardened (c) compelled (d) softened

## III. Collapsed Forms

On the left are a dozen short words that are the collapsed or related forms of longer words that appear on the right. Can you pair them off correctly?

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1. alien  | (a) stenopy (b) stenography (charcoal-ic)            |
| 2. belian | (a) belklopan (b) belklopana                         |
| 3. blame  | (a) emblematic (b) blasphemous                       |
| 4. coy    | (a) quest (b) covey                                  |
| 5. fall   | (a) flaccid (b) sagitate (vib-)                      |
| 6. lute   | (a) calamitate (cous-?) (b) ordinary                 |
| 7. luna   | (a) illuminate (b) clematic                          |
| 8. maim   | (a) madam (b) mayhem                                 |
| 9. manure | (a) manufacture (b) man-over                         |
| 10. paly  | (a) paralytic (b) pulsation                          |
| 11. proxy | (a) proximity (b) procuracy (manageword for another) |
| 12. urica | (a) uronian (b) uriculent                            |



"When you say 'unimpeachable authority,' Mulligan, I presume you mean the bunch that hangs out at Sloppy Mike's?"

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## 6. Words That Make the Headlines

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THE FELLOW who looks up from what he is doing and suddenly asks, "What's a thin six-letter word for allegiance?" is not a crossword-puzzle fan. He's a headline writer who has to squeeze a telling word into the space allotted him. *Allegiance* won't do. He has only eight spaces. He needs a short

---

\*Drawing reproduced courtesy *Cartoonists*.

six-letter word, one without m's or w's. Someone mentions *foafy*. The headline writer's thumb and index finger come together in a that-does-it-brother gesture, and tomorrow's headline reads,

**Throng Vows Fealty to U.S.  
In American Day Ceremony**

The fact that *foafy* is a somewhat unusual word, that it sounds slightly Shakespearean doesn't bother our headline writer. In his world of counted-out spaces, it fits. (Besides, he can put allegiance in the sub-head and everything will be all right.) Through this happy necessity of space limitation, copywriters\* have breathed life into words that long ago were on the way out in general American usage—such words as *weir* (for grow, related to the German word *wachsen*) as

**G.O.P. BACKING SEEN WAXING**

*lore* (a word related to *learn* and the German word *lehren*) in

**HELGOLAND BLAST ADDS SCIENCE LORE**

*collier* (for coal miner) in

**5-Day Week for Colliers  
Is Considered in Britain**

*albeit* (for although) in a typical *Variety* headline:

**B'way Spotty Albeit "Egg" Crocking**

*anent* (for in respect to, concerning) in

**U.S. Prestige Issue Raised  
Anent Holland and Portugal**

*soothsayer* (for fortune teller) in

**SOOTHSAYERS IN HIDING**

and *bruit* (for report, related to the French word *bruit* meaning noise) in

---

\*The main word for the man who composes headlines is copywriter or copy-head man.

## AMNESTY PROGRAM BRUITED IN GREECE

Headline writers have popularized such words as *amat*, *parley*, *impasse*\*, *blow*, *poet*, *impasse*, *deary*, and *score* (with-

### KOREAN IMPASSE BRINGS DEADLOCK OVER STALEMATE

the severity).

By placing a word in a headline, headline writers have given quick currency to words like *gewinks*, *monop*, *brinkmanship*, *mirrored*, *apartish*, *beatish*, *automation*, *automated*, and *aparthoid*.

Here's a headline that scores three times:

### PARLEY LEADERS SCORE APARTHEID

Headline writers have their lighter moments, too, when they vie with one another to achieve a headline that has interest and novelty. In such a mythical contest one newspaper changed its column headings for Births, Marriages, and Deaths to Hatched, Matched, and Snatched. That looked like a winner until another newspaper came along with Yells, Tells, and Kells. It's hard to improve on that kind of rhymed competition unless you're on the staff of *Variety*. Then you come up with

### STIX NIX HIX FIX†

and startle the world. And the French were even more startled when one of their journalists translated it as, "Morceaux de bois nient payens au cinema," which hastily translated back to English means, "Pieces of wood drawn harness in the cinema."

Even conservative papers like the New York Times and Herald Tribune will occasionally gag up their headlines:

### G.I.'s Beef Over Pork Puts Officer in Stew As Eisenhower Settles a Meaty Dispute

\* The New Republic carries a headline by the Norfolk, Va., Post:

† Illustration: Intakekama of rural districts (STIX) are not authorized about (HIX) wearing pictures (NIX) dealing with traffic through (STIX).

or

## **BRITONS REFUSE EWES FIT FOR GLUES, NOT STEWS**

or

## **KISS AND HISS DIDN'T MISS**

(If you've guessed, Kim and Hus were two motorists whose cars collided.)

But a headline writer's lot is not always a happy one. Into the limited space given him he must compress the gist of the news and he must try to do it without ambiguity. It is a great tribute to his ability and ingenuity that only occasionally do you stare and stare at a headline like

## **EYES LABOR IN RUMANIA**

and in a startled sort of way wonder what it can mean.

The first sentence of the news item explains all: "Desperately surveying the European horizon for labor with which to remedy her manpower shortage, France is expected soon to lay claim to 400,000 men and women in the Banat region of Rumania."

Or your eyes labor over this one:

## **ANTI-REDDATARULE HITS LOCAL UNIONS**

until you realize that you're not looking at a new surf word but at three words ANTI-RED, DATA, and RULE. The headline writer got himself into this jam, because one of the rules set down for him is never to let a word run into the next line.

The reason for this restriction on headline writers was asked to our attention one day last summer. We were driving from the Adirondacks to Pittsfield, Massachusetts. On Route 22 a mile or two out of Petersburg, N. Y., we came upon this road sign:

When we first saw it, we were going rather fast, and we thought perhaps we hadn't read the sign right, but there, two or three miles further on, was another just like it.

There must be other motorists passing this sign who think,



THE ADVERTISER

as we did, that they are passing through the quiet, undrained town of Little Hoo—with a sick river on its hands. (The slow custom adds to this feeling.) Later, of course, we discovered that the supposedly sick stream is the Little Hosick River.

A headline writer cannot afford this kind of misinterpretation. He can't afford to separate words. He doesn't use hyphens.

The true story (watched for by *Parade Magazine*) about the little girl belongs here. On Saturday her class had gone to visit the town reservoir. On Monday, composition day, the teacher assigned the topic, "An interesting place I visited over the weekend." Much scratching of heads and pens and then the little girl raised her hand. "Miss Finch," she asked, "is waterworks all one word or do you spell it with a hyphen?"

It has been said that we are a nation of headline readers. That may be bad for our general awareness, because headlines often contain an editorial slant and don't tell us the whole story. But it can be good, if what we want is to increase our store of words painfully.

When you see a new or familiar word in a headline, read on. You're sure to have it explained in the subhead or in the first sentence of the news story. Then again, as pointed

out in Chapter 2, you will be learning new words through context and context.

# ARE YOU A HEADLINE READER?

Here's a test we have prepared on words that start up at you regularly from the headlines.

Next to each number below you will find a word in capitals followed by four words or phrases. In each case select the word or phrase that has most nearly the same meaning as the word in capitals. Answers will be found on page 163.

1. AMBIGUOUS (a) clear (b) doubtful (c) brief (d) complicated
2. AMENABLE (a) religious (b) suspicious (c) kind-hearted (d) cruel
3. AMITY (a) love (b) strife (c) friendship (d) enemy
4. ASSURT (a) forecasting (b) increase (c) boring tool (d) sickness
5. AUTHORITY (a) style (b) poverty (c) calmness (d) severity
6. CAUTIONATION (a) provocation (b) driving force (c) punishment (d) warning
7. CONDUCE (a) surround (b) pardon (c) bring together (d) rule together
8. CONTENTION (a) deep satisfaction (b) self-restraint (c) competitive struggle (d) convincing reason
9. DECRY (a) describe (b) catch sight of (c) wrap (d) spy on
10. DEFALCATION (a) describe (b) embezzlement (c) amalgamation (d) branching off
11. DEMURE (a) to be coy (b) grumble (c) object to (d) concern
12. DENIGATE (a) agree (b) praise (c) underworld (d) inhabitant
13. DISSENTIENT (a) not agreeing (b) shaming (c) colonias (d) unfeeling
14. DISSERTATION (a) praise (b) food (c) sprinkling (d) essay
15. DISSEMINATE (a) concentrate (b) squander (c) speak foolishly (d) drink slowly
16. DUTYFREE (a) without scale (b) female (c) left (d) shepherd
17. ECHINO (a) eat slowly (b) to go wrong (c) avoid (d) lose
18. ETRUSC (a) moral (b) foreign (c) legal (d) racial



# WORDS THAT MAKE THE HEADLINES

19. FRENCO	(a) painting on fresh plaster (b) cooling drink (c) Italian vegetable (d) fresh fruit
20. WARDON	(a) safe port (b) foreman (c) drunken revel (d) warmer
21. HERUTE	(a) cheap (b) busy (c) heavy (d) smoky
22. HOLOGRAPH	(a) short (b) table of contents (c) deep cavern (d) handwritten document
23. ELICIT	(a) free (b) easy (c) spotted (d) not legal
24. SHROOGLY*	(a) decoration (b) quarrel (c) scandal (d) humor
25. IMPROMPTU	(a) offhand (b) rusty (c) precise (d) not proper
26. IMPROVISE	(a) impoverish (b) supervise (c) arrange suddenly (d) overlook
27. DIFFUSE	(a) bother (b) hurt (c) attack (d) uphold
28. INTERIM	(a) meantime (b) entrance (c) usual (d) stop
29. INUNDATE	(a) flood (b) invade (c) make an entry (d) go under
30. LETMARCY	(a) error (b) sluggishness (c) liability (d) permission
31. MITIGATE	(a) soften (b) copy (c) send away (d) fight against
32. MOROS	(a) additions (b) nationalities (c) customs (d) conflict
33. MILLOT	(a) take away by robbery (b) pasture cows (c) soften with soap (d) shut over
34. HERULOUS	(a) merry (b) cloudy (c) intoxicated (d) clear
35. OBSCULENCE	(a) destruction (b) opposition (c) consolation (d) going out of use
36. OPULENT	(a) working (b) wealthy (c) hopeful (d) attacking
37. PANACEA	(a) cure-all (b) vital organ (c) oceanic island (d) international agreement
38. PENURIOUS	(a) poor (b) imprisoned (c) singy (d) barfy
39. PREMPTORELY	(a) promptly (b) decidedly (c) arbitrarily (d) thoroughly
40. PIELATE	(a) army officer (b) geometric curve (c) college boat (d) church official
41. PREJACE	(a) grow old (b) publish (c) send ahead (d) predict
42. PROOT	(a) neighbor (b) president (c) fraud (d) substitute

\* Also written occasionally as shroogly because of relationship to shroud.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

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43. PLURGENT (a) pugnacious (b) arduous (c) being  
(d) wild
44. QUEROTIC (a) fleet-footed (b) visionary (c) perfection  
(d) foreign
45. REVENGE (a) persona (b) villain (c) desecrate  
(d) adhere
46. REVERSING (a) condone (b) go back (c) change  
(d) cancel
47. REVERIE (a) quest (b) patient (c) musing (d) sub-  
siding
48. SEMINAR (a) graduate course of study (b) conserva-  
tory (c) agricultural board (d) swing-  
circle
49. SHALB (a) type of rock (b) head covering (c) ed  
(d) fish
50. THUCKLE (a) convey (b) domesticate (c) drag along  
(d) yield subversively



"Does 'ex' take the oblique or the dative?"\*

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## 7. Pre-Fixing Words

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IN HIS BOOK, *Gilbert and Sullivan*, Hordath Pearson relates the following incident:

"Oh, Mr. Gilbert," said a wealthy lady at some dinner

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## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

party, "your friend Mr. Sullivan's music is really too delightful. It reminds me so much of dear Bayrich (Bach). Do tell me: what is Bayrich doing now? Is he still composing?"

"Well, no, madam," Gilbert returned, "just now, in a matter of fact, dear Bayrich is by way of decomposing."

What a difference that little prefix *de* made! In this case it marked the difference between life and death! Prefixes and combining forms are those important little syllables coming at the beginning (*pre-*) of a word, which often control the destiny of the word. Welded to a word, a prefix affects it for good or ill, for well or woe, for better or worse.

Prefixes can determine how you feel about a person or an idea. If you are against (*con-*) somebody you have a decided *antipathy* (*ant-*, feeling) toward him. If you like him you'll be in *sympathy* with (*sym-*) him, and if you don't care one way or another, you are *apathetic* (*a*, not). If you completely identify yourself emotionally with him, have a shared inside feeling, then you are *empathic* (*em*, *em*, in).

Prefixes can be constructive or destructive. They can build up or consolidate your faith in yourself and make you confident, or they can weaken your faith in yourself and make you *diffident*. Prefixes can divide and separate people or bring them together in cooperation.

They may work for or against you; they are *pro* (for) or *con* (contra, against). You engage in *controversy* with your opponents (*op* for *ok*, against, in the way) and are a *proponent* of the ideas you stand for (*pro*, for).

Prefixes can elevate or depress, add (*ad*, to + *do*, give) or subtract, increase or decrease. They can make your golf game *subnormal* or transform a film that is already colored into a *supercolorial* epic. They can turn *mere* man into a *superman* strutting *supercolic* speeds or drag him down as an *infelicitarian* into *subterranean* depths. A change of prefix turns man's cosmos, or universe, into a small world, a *microcosm*, or into a large universe, a *macrocosm*.

Prefixes are multilingual and polyglot, for they speak in many tongues, having come down to us through the Greek and Latin, French and Anglo-Saxon. They also speak the language of love and hate. You will come across *malvolent* *malanthropes*, men of ill (*mal*, *mal*) will who harm (*mal*) mankind, and benevolent *philanthropists* who love (*phil*) their

\**Phil* is to be confused with *phil*, badly, an Anglo-Saxon prefix found in *philopoli*, *philistic*, *philoborn*, etc.

follow men and wish them well (*bene*)

Often the prefix is the master key that unlocks the meaning of a word. If you meet a word like juxtaposition, you don't need to go beyond the prefix *juxta*, meaning near, to know that the word contains the idea of nearness or "along-ness." All's well with words that begin with the prefix *eu*. You know immediately that euphony must mean something pleasant, in this case a pleasant sound. All's right with words that begin with *ortho*. An orthodontist corrects the malformation of the teeth.

You'll find that in some words all you have to know are the prefixes to get at the meaning. For example, there's the word *intransigent* that occurs so often in newspaper accounts of world events. Some individual, organization, or country is constantly taking an *intransigent* position or is showing *intransigence*. Precisely what is meant by an *intransigent* position? The answer is found in the prefixes *in* (not) and *trans* (across). Somebody is unwilling to come across to the other side. An *intransigent* person or nation is uncompromising and unyielding. *Intransigent* accentuates the negative.

We have limited ourselves here to a treatment of prefixes coming into English from Greek and Latin; those coming from Anglo-Saxon are relatively simple. In addition, we have included some word elements attached to the beginnings of words and called combining forms or fused elements, like *ortho*. Some dictionaries do not consider them to be technically prefixes, but these forms do perform the same functions. That is why we have included them. You will find more combining forms in the next two chapters.

## THE MIGHTY PREFIX

The prefix is small but mighty. It is more than a mere addition to a word or root; it is often a dynamic aid in prying loose the meaning of a word. We guarantee that your knowledge of words and your ability to remember them will be greatly increased if you master the prefix.

And that isn't too hard to do, because the method of approaching the word through the prefix has certain definite merits and advantages, among which may be numbered the following:

1. There are only a small number of important prefixes, less than a hundred compared with thousands of roots.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

2. Prefixes are generally safer to handle and more dependable than roots because their meanings have undergone fewer changes.

3. Prefixes are more easily identifiable. Perhaps because of their position at the beginning of the word, their spelling has undergone fewer changes, the principal one being a rather easily recognized change made for the sake of euphony.

An example is found in the word *accord*, where *ad* has been changed to *ac* to blend with the *c* of *cord*. (For the same reason *in* + *logical* becomes *illogical* and *in* + *gram* becomes *ingram*.) Such changes in which the last letter of the prefix is changed to blend with the first letter of the root to which it is added are called *assimilation*, itself an example (*ad* + *misdeed*, like).

Someone asks you which of the heart actions is the *systole*, and which the *diastole*. You don't have to be an M.D. to answer that; all you have to be is a C.P., a connoisseur of prefixes. The *sy* is *syn*, the prefix meaning together, *dia* means through or apart. The *systole* occurs when the heart contracts; the *diastole* when the heart expands.

We're going to try to help you become a connoisseur of prefixes. For your inspection we are listing a number of important prefixes. Once again we do not recommend memorizing lists—the file-and-run method. We want you to stay with each of the prefixes for a while and associate it with its equivalent or its opposite or the words in which it is found.

### PREFIXES FOR CONNOISSEURS

Latin	English	Greek
	<i>Away, From,</i>	
<i>ab, abs</i>	<i>Off</i>	<i>apo</i>
<i>absque</i> : to swear off from, to shun; one's claim or right to. (A jury is sworn <i>in</i> .)		<i>apostate</i> : one who stands away from or forsakes a faith
<i>abscond</i> : to steal off and hide away from the law. ( <i>Recondite</i> means hidden in the sense of being difficult to under- stand.)		<i>apogee</i> : farthest point away from the earth ( <i>per</i> ), therefore the highest point. (Geology is earth science.)

# PRE-FIXING WORDS

Back,  
Around,  
About

AMBI, AMBE

*ambivalence*: a two-way pull; a simultaneous attraction toward and repulsion from an object, person, or action

ANTE

*antebellum*: antedated; literally *before* the *bell*

Latin

BENE

*benevolence*: good will; desire to promote the well-being of others.

Below

English  
Well

Greek

EU

*euphoric*: a sense of well-being  
*expert*: having good *experience*

CIRCUM

*circumambient*: surrounding.

*circumlocution*: a roundabout way of saying something

*circumference*: line going around a circle

Around

PERI

*peripatetic*: walking around from place to place; itinerant  
*periphrastic*: talking in a roundabout way  
*periphery*: line around a circle or other surface; outer boundaries

A few years ago, the route *Circumferential Parkway* was proposed for the new highway going around part of New York City. Later, *Peripheral Parkway* was suggested as a more euphonious name. Finally, because it was feared that either name would be too hard to pronounce, a compromise was reached. And so it is known as the *Belt Parkway*, for doesn't a belt go around something too?

With,  
Together,  
Vary

CON, COM, CO, COL, COM  
*concurrent*: literally a running together, meeting; agreement

*colloquy*: literally a talking together, informal conference.

SYM, SYL, TEM

*symptoms*: symptoms occurring together or happening concurrently, *sympy* is also run as in *symmetry*, *sympathy*.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

**contemporaneous**, happening at the same time or together  
**convivial**, from the Latin word *convivium*, a living together, dining with others, a banquet; hence joyous, festive.

**synchronous**, happening at the same time  
**symposium**, originally a drinking with others at a convivial banquet.

Speeches and entertainment followed or accompanied the dinner among the ancient Greeks. A symposium (literally a drinking together) was the conversational part of the banquet. Nowadays it refers to an exchange of ideas at a forum or in a publication where writers get together to exchange views.

Cum is also an intensive meaning very, as in *cumpeal*, to charge to very cold, hence to freeze, and in *condign*, very worthy, hence deserved, suitable, merited.

### Against, Opposite

**CONTRA** (via French, *contraire*)

**converse**, literally come against, oppose; disregard.

**countermand**, literally order against—issue a contrary order, revoke, recall.

**counterpoise**, a weight set against another; balance; equilibrium.

**ANTI ANT**  
**antibiotic**, literally against life, tending to destroy the life of micro-organisms.

**antidote**, something given against an illness or poison; a remedy.

**DE**  
**demolition**, tearing down, destruction.

### Down

**DETHALATA**  
**catastrophe**, a turning tip-tilt down, a great misfortune.

### Latin

**EX**  
**elict**, chosen from a group.

### English Out of, From

### Greek

**EC, EX, EXO**  
**eclectic**, chosen from various sources.



	In, Within	EN, EM
<b>EN</b> imbibe: to drink in (al- cohol, addicted to use of intoxicating drink). inure: to accustom within walls (mure); impen- etrable; confide.		<b>EN, EM</b> enamored: burst in lov- ing the color fixed by heat; (romantic oracles, the kind that can "burn you up").

	On, Upon	EPI
<b>ON</b> inscription: writing upon something as on a hard surface.		<b>EPI</b> epitaph: an inscription as on a gravestone.

(*Epithets*, however, are descriptive terms, names added on like *William the Conqueror*, or more usually unflattering names heaped upon someone. *Epithets* have been defined as the flattering descriptions of the dead and *epithets* as the unflattering descriptions of the living.)

IN, E, EM, EN	Not	A, AN
<b>IN, E, EM, EN</b> incorrigible: not capable of being corrected or reformed. immortal: deathless. illustrious: not lawful. invulnerable: not break- able, undefeatable.		<b>A, AN</b> amorphous: having no shape or form. amortal: literally im- mortal but referring, of course, to the fact of the gods which made them immortal.

The Greek gods fed on ambrosia and imbibed nectar, which also helped to ward off death. The word *nectar* may be derived from *nece*, a Greek root for dead and death, as in *neconspiracy*, a form of magic in which there was pretended communication with the dead, and *necrepsy*, a post-mortem examination, an autopsy. The Latin root *nece* (*nek*) also spells death in such words as pernicious, deadly in its effect, and interverine, bringing death to both sides, causing mutual destruction (lover, however, among, mutually).

(Note that the prefix *in* is protean, assuming various shapes, forms, and meanings. A few others, like *con* and *ob*, are that way also, but in time and with practice and occasional thumbing of a good dictionary, you will learn to distinguish and recognize the different meanings and spellings. We have tried to give you as much help and brining as space allows.)

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Latin	English	Greek	POLY
<b>MULTI</b> multilingual: comprising many languages.	Many	polyglot: speaking many languages.	

**PER, PER**  
peripatetic: a wandering through many lands. *Peripatetic* and *peripatage* are derived from the same root.  
perused: thoroughly or crystal clear.  
perennial: lasting the whole year through living for years, hence, eternal or supereternal.

**OMNI**  
omnivorous: eating all things, as opposed to carnivorous and herbivorous.  
omnipotent: all powerful, almighty; a term often applied to God, the Omnipotent and Omniscient (all-knowing).

**PRO, PRO (forth)**  
prologue: something said before a play  
propose: to set forth.

**SEMI**  
semicircle,

Through,  
Thoroughly  
dia (also meaning apart)  
diaspora: a scattering of people through many regions like the dispersal of the Jews after the Babylonian exile.  
Sporadic, meaning unattended, or at intervals, is from the same root.  
diaphanous: allowing light to pass through; transparent.

**ALL**  
PAN  
panoply: a complete suit of armor.  
panacea: a cure-all  
pandemonium: when capitalized, the home of all the demons; infernal tumult; wild uproar.

Before  
PRO  
Prologue: a statement made before or prefaceing a play or poem.

Half  
HEMI  
hemicycle.

*Diemi* is another prefix meaning half. The three halves come together in a music column in the New York Sunday Times where assorted items are called *hemihemihemiquavers*. That's a half of a half of a half of an eighth note (*quaver*) or a  $\frac{1}{16}$  note.

## PREFIXING WORDS

Latin	English Under	Greek
<b>HYPO, SUB, SUB, SUB, SUB, SUB</b> subcutaneous: under the skin. supposition: a statement "placed under" to support a belief. surrogate: substitute.		<b>HYPO</b> hypodermic: under the skin. a working explanation hypothesis: a supposition, of some belief.
<b>HYPER, SUPER</b> supererogatory: showily superfluous in that something is done beyond what is asked.	Above, Beyond	<b>HYPER</b> hyperbole: a throwing beyond, excess; exaggeration.
<b>TRANS</b> transformation. transmigration: the passing or migration (going across) of the soul into another body, human or animal. transcend: a class or stage, as if passing beyond it.	Across, Beyond	<b>META</b> metamorphosis: change of form or shape (see anamorphosis above). metempsychosis: transmigration (Psyche was the Greek goddess of the soul).

If you learn the influence of a prefix upon a word, your vocabulary will grow. Now go ahead or proceed to the questions to test and expand your knowledge of prefixes and words. Answers to these tests will be found on page 363.

### I. Accentuating the Negative

In a poem which appeared in William Rose Benet's column, the "Familiar Note," in the *Saturday Review*, Dwight Chapman complained that the negatives (really the negative prefixes) of English words baffled him. Enjoy the poem and then see how canny or uncanny an etymologist you are.

### DISCOMPLETION

The negatives of English words  
Conspire to baffle one;  
Too few turn out predictably,  
Too many turn out no.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Of prefixes they take their choice  
Unfettered and at will,  
And some results are logical  
But most are strangely ill.

The canny etymologists  
Are seldom led astray,  
To them each case looks typical  
To me each case looks a-

What sliver of orthography  
Is left for us to grab  
When nowhere is normality  
And everywhere is ab-

From the following list, select the twelve words in which the prefix has a negative force.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. anomalous      | 11. intricate    |
| 2. atypical       | 12. nonpolitical |
| 3. incontinent    | 13. aggressive   |
| 4. infatue        | 14. dissipation  |
| 5. illogical      | 15. irremediable |
| 6. aware          | 16. ascribe      |
| 7. insurrection   | 17. amuse        |
| 8. abnormality    | 18. inflammable  |
| 9. ignominia      | 19. inopportune  |
| 10. unpredictably | 20. amoral       |

## II. Prefixes in Opposition

In the left-hand column appear ten words with their meanings. On the right are the decapitated parts of the same words. Affix the prefix that will make each word whole again and will give it a meaning opposite to that of the corresponding word on the left. Each dot represents a letter.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. benignant, well-disposed                    | .. ignat    |
| 2. euphony, harsh or bad sound                 | .. phony    |
| 3. confident, sure of oneself                  | ... fident  |
| 4. exhibit, display                            | .. hibit    |
| 5. homogeneous, of the same kind throughout    | ... ganeous |
| 6. hyperthyroid, related to overactive thyroid | ... thyroid |
| 7. introvert, one who turns thoughts inwardly  | .... vert   |
| 8. insulator, wall door                        | .... factor |
| 9. prenatal, before birth                      | .... natal  |
| 10. retract, draw back                         | ... tract   |

### III Prefixes Help Your Spelling

Some prefixes change their spelling for the sake of euphony. As plus *iterate* becomes *alternate*. That's why *alternate* has two Ts. It's as simple as adding 1 and 1. Now try these:

1. Sub	+	press	=	_____
2. Ad	+	locate	=	_____
3. Ob	+	cult	=	_____
4. In	+	palpable	=	_____
5. In	+	rational	=	_____
6. Con	+	relate	=	_____
7. Ad	+	sign	=	_____
8. Ad	+	credit	=	_____
9. Per	+	hard	=	_____
10. Dis	+	fusion	=	_____

### IV. Divide and Conquer

We'll divide the words and let you conquer them. We'll give you the roots and their meanings. You are to give the meanings of the prefixes and then of the entire word.

1. aberration	_____	erre	wander	_____
2. accretion	_____	cre	grow	_____
3. anastrophe	_____	stroph	form, shape	_____
4. antecedent	_____	ced	go	_____
5. circumvent	_____	ven	come	_____
6. deter	_____	ter	frighten	_____
7. effate	_____	fat	wide	_____
8. effusive	_____	ere	run	_____
9. dystrophy	_____	traph	nourishment	_____
10. locomotion	_____	mo	start	_____
11. ineluctable	_____	pluc	appears	_____
12. impotent	_____	pot	able	_____
13. intervene	_____	ven	come	_____
14. isomental	_____	men	will	_____
15. ostracism	_____	ostrac	shell	_____
16. perambulate	_____	amb	go	_____
17. polychrome	_____	chrom	color	_____
18. serenade	_____	seren	sing	_____
19. speltion	_____	spelt	go	_____
20. synthesis	_____	thes	put, place	_____

V. Pure Delight

Finally, here is David McCard's famous and delightful little poem\* for you to have fun with. It shows what happens to some words when they have no profession to guide them. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the proper \_\_\_\_\_ form?

GLOSS

I know a little man, both apt and art.  
On intra-T extra-T No, he's just a vert.  
Shaveled and coath and kempt, peccaneous, see,  
His knaps trades upon the captive leads.  
When life turns apled and the mind is twaght,  
The spirit scurs as I would sct it ought.  
Chastantly thee, like any gaudy goaf,  
My dignst self is active, choate, " " loof.

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\* Copyright 1934 by David McCard. From *Older Brother Poets*, by permission of Little, Brown & Co.

\*\* Pronounced ED-ah.



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## 8. Count Off!

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"TO GET along anywhere on the Continent," a cynical traveler once said, "all you need to know of any man's language are the words 'How much?' and 'Too much!'" The casual European tourist, however, has discovered that to get full value to really know "how much too much" anything is, it's also a good idea to learn how to count. 11/3

When you set out to enrich your vocabulary, you become a tourist in the ancient world of Greece and Rome. You will

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find, too, that you'll be getting more value out of many words that you come across if you learn how to count from one to ten.

If you do, unlocking the mysteries of such words as (1) monolithic (2) dichotomy (3) triptych (4) quadrantal (5) quintessence (6) hexagon (7) hebdomadal (8) octave (9) novena and (10) decalogue will be child's play—as easy as counting from one to ten. For that's exactly what we just did—using Latin and Greek numbers.

Besides, if you know your numerical prefixes, you won't be counted out the next time the life of the party turns to you and asks, "How many sides has a paragon?"

## COUNTING OFF IN LATIN AND GREEK

(We are using the forms that count in English—those that appear most frequently as numerical prefixes.)

Combining			Combining		
Latin No.	Form	No. *	Greek	Form	
uno	uni	I	MONOS	mono (mona, only)	
duo	du, bi	II	DYO, DIA	di, dy, di	
tres	tri	III	TRIS	tri	
quatuor	quadr	IV	TETRAPES	tetra	
quinque	quint	V	PENTE	penta	
sex	sex	VI	HEX	hexa	
septem	sept	VII	HEPTA	hepta	
octo	octo	VIII	OCTO	octo (okta)	
novem	nov, non	IX	ENNEA	ennea	
decem	decim	X	DEKA	deka (deka)	

\* No. is an abbreviation of numero, Latin for "by number."

Don't try to learn them as a list. You'll get to know them better as we examine the words and combining forms in the slow count we're going to make now.

UNUS, UNI

I

MONO

MONOS

One is an awesome, unique number. It stands for the smallest number—one of any kind—and for the largest number—everything rolled up into one unified whole, one universe. It gives us our beautiful word statement (being at one with God and man) and our much sought-after ideal of unity—expressed so well in the motto of our country, *E pluribus unum*. Out of many—cool. For out of thirteen colonies and ultimately fifty states was forged one mighty nation—one union.



A thing is unique when it is the only one of its kind. When we sing in unison, all of us try to sing one (and the same) sound. But Johnny-one-note is just a monotone. Unilateral actions are one-sided. Out, from the Latin, and sphere, from the Greek, were combined to form Unisphere, the name of the symbol of the 1964 New York World's Fair.

A monolith is a single huge stone (Irish water is mineral water and a lithograph is first designed on a stone block). Monolithic is a stronger and more picturesque word than unified because of its stone base. For instance, the substitution of the word unified in the following sentence from the New York Herald Tribune would make the idea much less formidable:

On the other hand, the formation of a monolithic labor organization would represent an awesome concentration of power.

A monopoly is a single control of sales. And a monk is one who lives alone in a monastery!

Putting first things first is what we do when we use *primo* or *prout* at the beginning of a word. Both mean first, *primo* from Latin, *prout* from Greek. A *Primate* is a top-ranking church dignitary, an archbishop. A *prayer* is a first reader. "The forest *primeval*" goes back to the first ages of the world, just as *medieval* refers to the Middle Ages and *coneval* to things existing at the same time.

From *primo* is the word *protocol*, so often seen on page one of our newspapers. It means literally the first gluing, referring to the leaf which was glued to the rolls of papyrus and which contained an account of the manuscript. From this original meaning we get the two meanings most frequently found today. Here is one from the New York Herald Tribune:

An official announcement said today that Poland and Czechoslovakia had signed a protocol that would open their frontiers immediately for several commercial transactions.

Obviously, this *protocol* means a group of first, or preliminary negotiations discussed and agreed upon. But these days the word is more often used in another sense. Here's another

sentences from the New York Times

In the official lists, the advance notice to the United Nations which protocol required was overlooked.

Here protocol deals not with the contents but with the order of procedure prescribed by diplomatic etiquette.

A protagonist is the first or leading character in a play, the chief participant in any action. The prefix is *proto*, not *pro*; protagonist should, therefore, not be used to mean proposer.

DOO, DI, DAS      IT      DI, DT      STO, AIR

We say that two is company but historically two is a divisive number. It immediately destroys the unity of one. We, therefore, find doubt entering and duncension rise.

To be doubtful or in a state of *dubity* is to be of two minds about something. The German word for doubt is *Zweifel*—with *Zwei*, the German word for two, sticking right out of it.

If the doubt is very serious, it may even be a *dilemma*, on the two horns of which one is usually impaled.

The word diplomacy has been unable to escape this taint of two-ness. The word itself comes from *diploma* which merely meant a paper folded double. Such a folded paper served as the credentials of a diplomat. So it's not really the two that's to blame but the double-talk or duplicity of diplomacy.

*Bi* gives us *bicameral*, having two chambers (*camera*)—legislative—like our own Congress. *Binoculars* are two (additional) eyes, and to *combine* (*bi* is, two at a time) is to put two and two together. *Bigamy* literally means being married to two people at the same time. The following limerick shows how a young fellow who disliked monogamy took advantage of his knowledge that *bi* = two:

There was a young fellow of Lyme  
Who lived with three wives at a time;  
When they asked, "Why the third?"  
He replied, "One's abroad,  
And bigamy, Sir, is a crime!"

The most difficult of the words that stem from two is *dichotomy*, but as soon as you recognize that it means a cutting into two, it's easy. Where there is a dichotomy, there are two divisions—two opposite schools of thought exist. The cutting is done by *some*. (See page 2).

TRIS, TRI, TER

III

TRI

THREE

Most of the words with three in them are fairly obvious. A three-footed stand for holding a camera is a tripod, if it holds a kettle it's a trivet. A triad is a group of three. When the three are pictures or carvings on folding panels, side by side, you have a triptych (pronounced *trip-tick*). A major work of literature or music in three parts is a trilogy, although the word triptych is used when they are all presented together in one volume.

The Latin word for a crossroad is *trivium* (triv, three together + *via*, from *via*, a road). The meaning of this word was extended to denote a public square, street, or highway. What was said and heard there was *trivialis*, of little consequence, ordinary, commonplace, whence our word trivial. Trivia, a plural form of *trivium*, has been taken over into English directly in its late Latin meaning of trifles, insignificant details.

A word one reads often these days in connection with free elections and a free press is untrammelled. A *trammel* is a net of three layers, which like any net can ensnare or entangle the feet. Untrammelled elections are, therefore, untrampered.

QUATTOR, QUADR

IV

TETRA

FOUR

Four is a square, yielding quadrangle, quadrilateral, quadrone, and quadrille, a square dance. Quadrennial (four + annual) elections are held every four years. A *quarrel* is a four-line stanza, like the famous *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam (*Rubaiyat* is Persian for *quatrain*).

Stop at any gas station, and the pump containing the more expensive gas will have the word *tetraoctane* on it. *Tetra* appears in hundreds of chemical and geometrical combinations.

*Tetra* is the combining form, but another word for four via Latin is *quattuor* which brings us back to the square we started with. Whatever is formed of little squares as in mosaic work or marked like a checkerboard is *quadrated*.

QUINQUE, QUINT

V

PENTA

FIVE

As the numbers become larger the harvest of words, including the technical, becomes smaller.

Five yields *quingentennial*, a handy word to indicate a recurring period of five years, and *quintessence*, literally the fifth or highest essence, because the Greeks recognized only

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

four elements (earth, air, fire and water). The word therefore means the purest, finest form or expression of anything. When Hamlet speaks of man he says, "And yet to me what is this quintessence of dust?"

From *pentia* we get *pentagon*, a five-sided figure, the *Pentateuch*, the first five books of the Bible, and the *pentathlon*, Olympic events in which each athlete takes part in five athletic contests: maping, foot racing, wrestling, throwing the *durus*, and hurling the javelin.

### SEX, SEXT

### VI

### HEXA

### IX

*Sex* and *hex* sound alike and are English words, but here they are just six of one (Latin *sex*) and a half a dozen of another (Greek *hex*). To the naked eye most snowflakes are exquisitely patterned *Hexagons*.

A *sector*, that very important navigator's instrument, gets its name from the fact that its arc is one-sixth of a circle. A *semester* is a six months' period, now generally used for a school term of any length.

And what is the word for someone in his scoties? We'll let Helen Westley, veteran Theater Guild actress, answer that one. While she was working on a set in Hollywood, an extra rushed up to her.

"Why, Miss Westley, what are you doing in this picture?"

"My dear, haven't you heard," replied Miss Westley, "I furnish the scenographer's appeal."

### SEPTEN

### VII

### HEPTA

### HYTA

Of course, there's always September, and the mystery of why this pleasant sixth month masquerades under the number seven is cleared up when we recall that the Roman year used to begin in March. In 153 B. C., January became the first month, probably in honor of Janus, the Roman god of beginnings. *Quintilis* and *Sextilis*, the names of the fifth and sixth months under the old system, were kept, just as we keep the names September, October, November, and December. Eventually, in honor of Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar, *Quintilis* and *Sextilis* became July and August respectively. And a good thing too. Can you imagine the prosecutor in one of those TV courtroom scenes pointing an accusing finger at the glum defendant and asking, "And where were you on the night of *Sextilis* the sixteenth?"

The famous translation of the Old Testament into Greek is called the *Septuagint*, because seventy scholars (not all of

## COUNT OFF!

Seven septuagintarians) are said to have worked on it.

*Hepta* (*hept*) is the form that appears in scientific words, as for example *heptane*, a hydrocarbon containing seven atoms of carbon for fifteen of hydrogen in a molecule. *Hebdomadal*, which comes to us from Greek via Latin, is a word that was once more frequently used. All this imposing word means is "occurring every seven days" (i.e. weekly).

OCTO

PIN

OCTO

OKTO

*Octo* (*Okst*) gives us *octagon*, eight sides, and *octopus*, eight feet. In San Francisco recently a biologist discovered that Willie, the aquarium octopus, had only seven tentacles—with no stump to show that it ever had had an eighth. The reporter of this news item asks, "Does that make Willie a septopus?" No. To keep the record straight it makes Willie a *heptopus*, because *pus* is really *pusa*, the Greek word for foot, and should be preceded by *hepta*, the Greek word for seven.

NOVEN, NON

IE

ENNEA

ENNEA

We have lots of phrases with *nine* in them like "a nine days' wonder," "a cat's nine lives," "nine points of the law," but very few words.

There's *novena*, a nine days' religious devotion, and of course, *November*. Sports headlines tell us that the annual athletic meets held at Princeton are called the *Nineagonal Games*, because nine colleges take part.

DECIM, DECIM

IE

DECA

DEKA

But ten gives us a spate of words—from the simple or obvious like *decim* and *decimal* to one that tells a story—*dicker*. The Latin word *decima*, a set of ten, was applied to the units of trade in hides and skin between the Romans and "barbarian" tribes. History repeated itself on this continent when the same word in its changed form *dicker* was used in the sense of *happle* in the fur trade between the settlers and the Indians. "Up *dicker* and to swap" occurs in the writings of James Fenimore Cooper.

If we want to refer to the Ten Commandments in one word we have the word *Decalogue*.

To *decimate* originally meant to kill one in ten, generally in a punishment for mutiny. Today our newspapers use it in the sense of *annihilate*, to reduce to nothing.

Corresponding to the *pentathlon*, there is an even mightier

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

athletic feat, the decathlon, which tests an athlete's skill in ten events.

*NIHIL* (nothing), *NULLOS* (none)

*OTIUM* (nothing)

*Nihil* is the Latin for nothing. Compress it a little and you get our word *null*. Expand *null* a little and you get *nullify* and *annul*. *Utopia* (ow, not) means *No Place* (see p. 600).

A report in the *Times* tells us of "a wave of nihilism among the youth of Germany and other defeated countries," and then helpfully goes on to explain that "there is a tendency to believe in nothing." With a capital letter *Nihilism* refers to a terrorist organization in Czarist Russia given a name and fame in Tolstoy's *Fathers and Sons*.

*CENTUM*

*C*

*HECATON, HECTO*

*HECTOR*

*Centum* gives us the words *cent*, *century*, *centenary*, and *centipede*.

From the Greek word we get *hecatomb*, the slaughter or sacrifice of a large number of people. Originally it meant the sacrifice of a hundred cattle, usually bulls (the *b* is from *bos*, bull, ox, cow). A *hectograph* is a duplicating machine that turns out a hundred copies or more.

*MILLE*

*M\**

*KILO*

*TELION*

*Mille* gives us *mille* (a thousand paces in the Roman mile) and *millennium*. *Millennaire* or *millied* may be used literally to mean a period of one thousand years. But more often it is used for some far-off year when man will have remolded "this sorry scheme of things entire . . . nearer to the heart's desire." At any rate the child was wrong who said, "A millennium is something like a centennial only it has more feet." We, who know that *ped* is the root for foot, recognize that the child was thinking of *millipede* and *centipede*.

And that gives us the cue for our last paragraph, in which we feature the word *sesquipedalian*—*sesqui* means one and a half as in *sesquicentennial*. A writer who is addicted to the use of words that seem a foot and a half long is culpable of *sesquipedality*! The *Literary Digest* invented a term for excessive use of long words: *Hyperpolyptolobosequipedalianism*.

\* The Roman numbers C and M are not related to the words *centum* or *mille*. M's just a coincidence. The symbol for one thousand was C<sub>D</sub>, meaning as M. Half (the right half) became D, five hundred.

# I. Can You Figure These Out?

After reading the sentences below, answer the questions by using context. Answers for these tests will be found on page 164.

A. When General Dwight D. Eisenhower received the Navy's Distinguished Service Medal, he jokingly remarked, "I'm now really triplebored."

To how many branches of the service did he imply that he belonged?

B. Therefore, if ancient Greek can be stretched to describe this political situation, the President was confronted with a trilemma or even a tetralemma, by the Senate vote today.

How many choices or doubts confronted the President?

C. Up until 1947 the Nonaagonal event was known as the Heptagonal Games.

How many colleges competed until 1947? How many were added to the competition in 1947?

D. In 1947, Trinity Parish celebrated its quarter millennium.

Select the figure showing how long Trinity had been in existence: (a) 500 (b) 1000 (c) 250 (d) 400.

E. Philadelphia held a sesquicentennial exposition in 1926.

In what year did the event that was being celebrated occur?

F. John Massfield's "Cargoos" opens with the magnificent line:

"Quinquagone of Kneevs from distant Optar"

A quinquagone (more properly quinquagennal) was an ancient galley propelled by oars. How many banks of oars or rows to a bank did it have?

## II. Assorted Numbers

Fill in the blanks with the correct number-words or number-prefixes. Each dot represents a letter.

A. When O. B. Shaw was now in his apostasy, he was often referred to as a hardy . . . . .

B. The . . . . . centennial of Columbus' birth (1547-1616) was celebrated in 1947.

C. *Assensus* means *aided*. A measure agreed upon without a dissenting vote is passed .. *animously* and a condition of perfect agreement is called .. *animity*.

D. *Zoea* (plural *zoea*) means a living thing. Very small animals which represent early or first forms of life are called .. *zoea*.

### III. Count the Impostor Out

One of the words in each group is masquerading as a number. It looks like a word whose root is a number, but it is only an impostor. Cross off the word in each group which doesn't count.

1. (a) tick (b) talon (c) tally (d) masher (e) monolith
2. (a) dozen (b) duple (c) bicentennial (d) becoli (e) dilemma
3. (a) tread (b) tributary (c) trecent (d) triple (e) tertiary
4. (a) quart (b) squadron (c) quoreal (d) quarry (e) quadrilateral
5. (a) claspedoff (b) quinquennial (c) quintess (d) quinquiescent (e) quantal
6. (a) sextar (b) decia (c) section (d) sextuplet (e) sextant
7. (a) septum (b) heptarchy (c) hebdomadal (d) septor (e) September
8. (a) octoid (b) octagon (c) octopus (d) octave (e) October
9. (a) nonagon (b) nonentity (c) noon (d) novena (e) nonarylike
10. (a) decalogue (b) decimal (c) decade (d) decadent (e) dime

### IV. Treasure Hunt

You may not believe it but the numbers one to ten are concealed in these words. We've added two superfluous ones, one meaning 14 and the other 40. Can you file them in their numerical instead of their alphabetical order?

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| a. farthing          | g. quarantine |
| b. fortnight         | h. septennial |
| c. novice            | i. vista      |
| d. noon              | j. tilth      |
| e. octave            | k. traits     |
| f. punch (the drink) | l. zombark    |





"We've got some made with harts, too—but we don't know what to call them."<sup>4</sup>

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## 9. Attachable-Detachable Parts

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DO YOU remember the name of the Hunchback of Notre Dame? It is a peculiar name, strangely appropriate to the weird occupant of the cathedral bell-tower. Victor Hugo named him *Quasimodo* after the opening words of a service sung on the first Sunday after Easter: *Quasi modo genitum*

<sup>4</sup> Drawing reproduced courtesy Collier's

infanter . . ." (In the same way as new-born babes . . .) Quasimodo's intelligence remained that of an infant almost all his life. One-eyed, hunch-backed, bow-legged, he was hardly anything but "an-almost-but-not-quite-there" person—a quasi-human being.

In this chapter we deal with attachable and detachable parts like *quasi*, *pseudo*, *crypto*, and *neo*. Some these parts are added to already existing words—the only problem is to know what *quasi*, *pseudo*, *crypto*, and *neo* do to words—how they affect the meaning of words we already know.

### QUASI

A rose is a rose is a rose, but when it's only "nighly ink a rose" it's a quasi-rose. When you feel that something is almost but not quite the real thing you can use the attachable part *quasi*. That's what a New York City magistrate did when he remarked, "Garages are quasi-public utilities." What he meant was that if garages weren't legally public utilities like the railroads, they were public utilities in all but name.

In the same way a *Times* correspondent who didn't want to call the Greek government an actual dictatorship defined it as a quasi-dictatorship. Another *Times* writer had similar reservations about the freedom of Trans-Jordan, which, he wrote, had enjoyed "twenty-five years of quasi-independence under Britain's mandate." *Quasi* itself has the same type of independence. It comes under the mandate of other words. It's a free lance like the professional soldiers who sold their services. They were quasi-independent, too, going wherever they wished but effective only when they attached themselves. They had no roots. So, all you can do with *quasi* is to attach it but you can't form any new words with it as a root.

### PSEUDO

*Pseudo*, false, is close to *quasi* in meaning. You can attach it to other words to indicate that here we have something masquerading as the real thing, the genuine article. A magazine editorial states,

Another few years of the archpaganistic [arch is another attachable-detachable part meaning chief, principal] New Deal, for example, and we too might have slid sideways into pseudocratism, like England.

*Pseudo* can be used as a word by itself meaning pretended, feigned, counterfeit, spurious or it can be fixed into a word like *pseudonym*, a false or pen name.

## CRYPTO

The words to which *crypto* is attached become not false, but hidden or secret. Winston Churchill gave prominence to this attachable part in April, 1947, when he started a controversy by stating publicly that "a visitor from the United States . . . has foregathered with that happily small minority of *crypto-Communists*" In October, 1947, Senator Pepper declared, "The *crypto-Fascists* may as well know that the people of America throw down before their evil feet the gauntlet of defiance." A *crypto-something* is one who is accused of working secretly for an objective he is unwilling to declare.

A *crypt* is an underground or secret vault. *Cryptic* remarks conceal their meaning. A *cryptogram* is a message whose meaning is unlocked or deciphered by a secret code. You'll find *crypt* hidden in *spectrophyl* which once meant secret but now means of doubtful authenticity, fictitious, spurious. Apo *crypta* are certain books of the Bible which are additions to the generally accepted canon. *Krypton* is an element forming part of the air, a hidden element because it occurs in the ratio of one part in a million.

## NEO

An element discovered in the same year as *krypton* was named *neon* or the new element. Those orange-red lights on signs were named after the gaseous element in the bulbs, an element discovered by the French scientist G. Claude. *Neo* is attached to words to indicate a new form or development. *Neo-Gothic* refers to a style of Gothic architecture which was used in this country and England a century ago. *Neo-classic* and *neo-Greek* architecture imitated the Greek and Roman style of building. The term *neo-Fascists* is used a great deal in newspapers to describe those who are attempting to revive fascist ideology.

*Neo* may attach itself as a free-lance prefix or it may combine with other roots. The *Neolithic* inhabitants of Europe lived during the latter or new part of the Stone (lithic) Age.

A *neophyte* is a beginner or novice. A *neologism* is a newly coined word (logos, word).

## AUTO

*Auto* (from the Greek *autos*), denoted in so many words as a free lance (as in *automation* is a mechanical contrivance that

robot *roib* An automaton is a mechanical contrivance that is self-moving like a man. A man who acts in a mechanical fashion is also called an automaton or a robot, the name given to the mechanical man created in Capk's play *R.U.R.* Too new for our unabridged dictionary are *automated* and *automation*, words coined to keep pace with the marvels of an age in which machines, mechanical brains, and accelerated systems of procedure and calculations do the work of many men in so much less time. The prophecies of *R. U. R.* have come true in reverse, the machines have become the mechanical men. (See *robot*, p. 237.)

### AUTOMATION BY ROBOTS But Human Brains Produced It

When colonies want autonomy, they seek the right of self-government. Sovereign states seek self-sufficiency, their goal is *autarchy* (also *autarky*). An *autopsy* is the act of seeing with one's own eyes, more specifically the examination of a dead body to ascertain the reasons for death. *Autochthonous* (from *auto*, self, and *chthos*, earth) means arising from the earth or the land itself, hence not coming from elsewhere but native, indigenous, aboriginal.

### CIDE

An *autopsy* may determine that the cause of death was suicide. Here we have another self word, the Latin *ma*. However, we are not interested here in the beginning of the word, for *cide* is attached at the end of a word. When so attached *cide* spells Murder! Our whodunits deal not only with homicide but with infanticide, parricide, patricide, matricide, sororicide, uxoricide, etc. About the house and garden we see the germinicide, insecticide, and pesticide. The Nazi crime of wiping out national, racial, and religious groups needed a new word. Dr. Ralph Larkin added *cide* to a Greek word element meaning nation or group and produced the new much-used word *genocide*.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, poet and essayist, also used *cide* to coin the word *verbiicide*, a crime he described in these words:

Life and language are alike sacred. Homicide and verbiicide  
—that is, violent treatment of a word with fatal results to its  
legitimate meaning, which is to live—are alike forbidden.

## PHIL

One who treats words with love and affection, is a philologist (phil, love). Phil and phile are used either at the beginning or end of words. Anglophile means England, and Russophile like all things Russian. A Francophile is not a follower of France but a person devoted to France. Phil is a favorite with word coiners, or neologists. Christopher Morley once described Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as an "infracainophile." Divide that up into *infra* (below), *cainos* (dog), and *philos* (love), put the parts together again and you have "a lover of the underdog."

One who loves all his fellow men and helps them is a philanthropist (anthropos, man, as in anthropology). A phelanderer is also in love but he plays at love-making. A phelachist loves stamps as a philosopher loves wisdom.

## PHOBIA AND PHOBIA

A phobia is a morbid dislike or an unreasonable dread or fear,\* and the people who have it are phobes. So we have Russophobia, Anglophobia, and Francophobia. A person who fears strangers and the people of all nations not his own is suffering from xenophobia (xenos, strange).

Some people are afraid of high places. Their fear is called acrophobia (acrois, highest, as in acrobat and Acropolis, the high hill of the city—polis—of Athens.) Richard Marge wrote of the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers that they were suffering from acrophobia because they shivered so often after reaching the dizzy heights of first place.

There are at the time of this writing some two hundred catalogued phobias. Do cats bother you? Then you are suffering from ciliophobia. There is or there can be a word for each specific fear. When President Roosevelt in his First Inaugural Address said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," there was a word for that—phobophobia.

## PSEUDO-ATTACHABLES

A hamburger was originally a Hamburgher steak, getting its name from the city in Germany where these chopped steaks became famous. It is therefore obvious that burger is not a real ending and that it certainly doesn't mean "chopped," but that didn't stop the neologists, who needed new names for the

\* So, rabies is called lyophobic because the virus is unable to swallow or even bear the sight of water.

delights they were chopping up and puffing between two slices of bread. We soon had cheeseburgers, chickenburgers, clamburgers, spanburgers, hamburgerburgers, nutburgers, and even oomphburgers. The English began doing it too. A dispatch from London tells us that "whale meat was served in the form of chopped steak with sauce. Those who ate it claimed that it tasted like chopped steak. There was no flavor of fish. That was why they called it 'whaleburger'."

The name of another place that has been chopped up to give us an attachable part is the ancient village of Marathon, from which Pheidippides is said to have made his famous Marathon run to bring news of victory to Athens. Athens has been added to words as if it meant "endurance contest." So we use such words as *marathon*, *decathlon*, *pentathlon*, *triatlon*, *gymnathlon*, *waterathlon*, *roadathlon*, and *talkathlon*, a handy word to describe what happens when Senators stage a filibuster.

## I. What Do the Following Mean?

Choose the proper word from Column B to match the words in Column A. Answers for these tests will be found on page 164.

A	B
1. rapids	a. makes
2. vertecade	b. parents
3. sonocade	c. dandruff
4. perocade	d. foot
5. rusticade	e. wife
6. apocade	f. dogs
7. herpacade	g. birds
8. uxorocade	h. children
9. blucade	i. worms
10. avocade	j. monkey
	k. star
	l. king

## II. Who Are These Specialists?

A. In medicine *ologist* denotes a specialist in a specific type of disease. Try to match the name of the specialist in the left-hand column with his specialty on the right.

1. otologist	a. skin
2. rheumatologist	b. nerves
3. ophthalmologist	c. women's diseases

## ATTACHABLE DETACHABLE PARTS

4. mammologist	d. nose
5. cardiologist	e. heart
6. dermatologist	f. ears
7. ophthalmologist	g. eyes
8. pathologist	h. old age
9. parasitologist	i. nature and origin of disease
10. endocrinologist	j. glands of internal secretion

B And here are some other ologists in other branches of science and learning.

1. psychologist	a. insects
2. ornithologist	b. words
3. archaeologist	c. caves
4. epigraphologist	d. earthquakes
5. herpetologist	e. poems
6. paleontologist	f. reptiles
7. toxicologist	g. foods and other forms of early life
8. etymologist	h. birds
9. ethnologist	i. former history through excavations
10. astromologist	j. mind and behavior

When you learn these words, you not only fix the meaning of the ending but you also add some useful roots and word elements to your word-building stock! Check with the dictionary for the unfamiliar ones.

### III. Who Is the Ruler?

Cracy is an element meaning rule. We are most familiar with the word *democracy* or the rule of the people (*demo*), but there have been many other types of rule in history. See how many you can identify by matching the two columns. Once again check with a dictionary. You'll find some useful roots in these words.

Form of Government	Rule by
1. theocracy	a. women
2. gerontocracy	b. nobility or elite
3. plutocracy	c. the worst elements
4. bureaucracy	d. mob
5. gynocracy	e. church authorities
6. aristocracy	f. desk officials
7. oligarchy	g. wealth
8. kakistocracy	h. old men
9. theocracy	i. absolute monarch
10. autocracy	j. love of honor

IV. What Are We Afraid of?

Fears may be magnified by the long technical names given to them but their names may not seem so formidable if you learn their roots. Match the names in the left-hand column with the specific fears on the right.

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. astrophobia    | a. closed space          |
| 2. ballistophobia | b. light                 |
| 3. claustrophobia | c. heat                  |
| 4. ergophobia     | d. celestial space       |
| 5. nyctophobia    | e. snakes                |
| 6. ophiophobia    | f. food                  |
| 7. panophobia     | g. crowds                |
| 8. photophobia    | h. everything in general |
| 9. misophobia     | i. night                 |
| 10. trichophobia  | j. work                  |





## 10. Every Word Has a History

WHAT made history almost 2,500 years ago made news again only yesterday. This is how the New York Times reported the story:

ATHENS, Aug. 13—Archaeologists of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens finished today the twelfth season of excavations at the Agora, the main public square of ancient Athens and one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world. On the site of the museum the archaeologists this year found several hundred ostraka, pieces of pottery on which the Athenians of the fifth century before Christ scratched the names of persons they wished voted for ten years. Themistocles, Hippocrates and Aristides were among the names.

Drawing reproduced from *The Word*. Copyright 1947 by The United Newspaper Magazine Corporation.

And this is how a reporter of an earlier age, the famous Greek historian and biographer Plutarch, handed down the story of Aristides and the ostraka.

"As Cicerone says [the Athenian voters] were writing the names on the sherds [potsherds or shards, pieces of pottery] it is reported that an obscure clownish fellow, giving Aristides his sherd, supposing him a common citizen, begged him to write Aristides upon it, and he being surprised and asking him if Aristides had ever done him any injury. 'None at all,' said he, 'neither know I the man; but I am tired of hearing him everywhere called the Just.' Aristides, hearing this, is said to have made no reply, but returned the sherd with his own name inscribed."

Because in voting the Athenian citizens voted by casting spider shells (*ostrake*) or potsherds into an urn, we have the words *ostracism* and *ostracize* today. The Athenians used ostracism as a method of exiling citizens who might become dangerous to the state. Those whose names appeared on a majority of the shells, with a minimum of 6000 adverse votes, were banished. Today, ostracism is generally a social rather than a political act. When we ostracize a person, we avoid his company or bar him from our society.

Every English word has a history if, like the excavators of the Agora, we know where and how to look for it. Digging up the past of a word and tracking down its origin is called *etymology*. In Chapter 3 and 4, when we took words apart and uncovered their roots, we were doing *spade-work* in etymology.

Now we're going to set out on an etymological tour through history, shuttling back and forth in time and space, stopping here and there for words that tell interesting stories or reveal customs and institutions of bygone days. We shall find that when we know the story behind a word, when we can tie the word to the kith of history, we can hold on to it more *firmly* in our minds.

## IN THE MARKET PLACE OF ATHENS

So, without further rambling, we'll begin our etymological journey in the Agora of Athens, where the citizens gathered to ostracize Aristides. This public square, like the village green and commons of our New England towns, is one of

the milestones on man's road to democratic thought and action. Here the freedom-loving citizens of Athens assembled to exercise their democratic rights, to listen to their great orators and statesmen, and to discuss freely the affairs of the day.

Although the word *Agora* is generally associated with the idea of a market or open space, it really means a place for discussion. *Agora* is derived from a Greek verb meaning to speak or discuss. On the one hand, the idea of a public square is kept in the word *agoraphobia*, a fear of open spaces; and on the other hand, the idea of to speak appears in such words as *ecstasy*, *paragoreia*, and *paragoreic*.

Let's stay a moment with the last of these three words. (You'll find the other two in the exercises.) A *paragoreic* is a soothing medicine or anodyne. How does a verbal root meaning to speak find its way into medicine? Etymology resolves such problems. The Greek verb *paragoreaino*, containing the prefix *para*, beside, literally means to be at one's side with words, to offer advice or comfort. Now think of a mother's or doctor's comforting bedside manner. Words of encouragement are often as good as medicine. So, even among the Greeks, their word corresponding to *paragoreic* meant a soothing and comforting medicine.

## COME TO THE FAIR!

From the *Agora* or market place of Athens, we travel in time and space to another market. We arrive at the cathedral town of Ely, England, where a famous fair is taking place. Let's call the century the sixteenth and the day, October 17, St. Audrey's Day. People have come from miles around to attend the fair to purchase the gay tawdry on display.

St. Audrey's Fair is particularly noted for its fine silk necklaces or neckties worn by the girls of the time. At first they were called St. Audrey's laces but soon the clipped speech of the people turned St. Audrey laces into tawdry laces just as it turned St. Denis into Sidney. Many a twain found that a tawdry lace was the way to a girl's heart. An old ballad tells us of the complaint of one luckless lad:

One time I gave thee a paper of pins  
Another time a tawdry lace;  
And if thou wilt not grant my love,  
In truth I'll die before thy face.

Cheap and showy imitations of the fine tweedy lace soon found their way into the market places and fairs of England. And so the word *tweedy* took on its present connotation of cheap and showy.

Not all who came to the fair came to buy. Fairs were made for the traveling quacks of the period. Arriving at a fair, these "pitchmen" would mount a platform and attract a crowd with stunts, tricks, or juggling. When the crowd was sufficiently large and interested, they would sell their remedies. These traveling players and salesmen, the counterpart of our "guffers," were called *mousebats*, from the Indian phrase *monvoe* in *havo*, to get up on a bench. Today we apply the word *mousebat* to a buffoon or to one who uses cheap tricks to gain attention or popularity.

Sometimes, to build up interest and increase sales, the *mousebat* or charlatan employed a young attendant as part of the act. This "shill" would eat or pretend to eat foods, which were considered poisonous by the superstitious people of the time. Soon the lad, a good actor, would be writhing in pain. At this moment his master would try out his bottle of medicine on his audience or ready. The remedy worked like magic, and the toady was soon smiling gratefully. Anyone who performed such servile work for a master or superior came to be called a *toady*, a cringing, fawning person, a servile flatterer, a *zycophant*.

And *zycophant* takes us back to Greece again, to Athens in the district of Attica. Although *zycophants* are of the opinion that the explanation of how this word got its meaning is not certain, we are including it because the interesting story helps fix its meaning. According to Plutarch, "the exportation of figs was once unlawful, and the informer against the delinquents [was] called a *zycophant*." Literally, *zycophant* means one who shows (*phan*, to show, as in *diaphanous*, showing through) figs (*zycos*, a fig, as in *zyzanthum*, a weed allied to the fig and mulberry family). Because of the informer's cringing and servile manner, *zycophant* was next applied to a toady or parasite, a meaning which it has today.

## SPARTAN SHORT CUT

For the origin of our next word, *laconic*, we travel to Athens' great rival, Sparta in the district of Laconia. The Spartans have left us no great speeches as the Athenians did. They were noted for their military discipline and achievements

and let their sparing use of words.

Many collections have been made of their short answers and terse expressions. In this etymological excursion we have time to listen to only two of them.

Plutarch tells us about an exchange of messages between Philip of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great, and the Spartans. When Philip invaded Greece, he asked the Spartans whether they wished him to come as friend or foe. This was brief enough but the Spartans upheld their reputation for not wasting words when they returned the one-word answer, "Neither!"

Erasmus, the great Renaissance scholar, tells another story about Philip and the Spartans. Philip had sent a long list of demands. The Spartans sent it back and at the bottom wrote the single word, "No."

In our own times we have had another example of these short defiant thrusts at an enemy. We refer of course to the historic answer given by General Anthony C. McAuliffe at Bastogne in December, 1944, when the Germans called on him to surrender. We give it to you in General McAuliffe's own words:

On the afternoon of December 23, when German shells were hitting Bastogne to try and all my men were holed in cellars, two hoodlumed front officers arrived with surrender demands. There were two written demands for surrender, one in English and the other in German. They told me there was only one possibility to save my troops from annihilation—surrender.

I read the message in English and used the first word that came to my head, "Nuts." Then one of my officers pointed out that the Germans had submitted a formal document and would want a formal reply. We thought it over and decided, why not. And so we wrote a formal reply, "Nuts."

The Spartans would certainly have applauded General McAuliffe's reply, a true descendant of their defiant answers hurled at Philip. The Spartans have set their trademark upon these sharp and pointed statements, so like the short swords they themselves used. Expressions of this kind are called *laconisms*, after Laconia, the name of the district inhabited by the Spartans. A *laconic* reply or statement is one that is direct and to the point, pithy, terse, concise and succinct.

The story of another word is connected with a habit of speech. For this one we go back to Biblical times and to the banks of the River Jordan. The Gileadites, fighting under their leader Jephthah, have defeated the Ephraimites. To distinguish the fleeing enemy from his own men, Jephthah takes advantage of a speech difference between the Gileadites and the men of the routed enemy who are trying to escape. Here is the story as it is told in Judges 12:5, 6—

And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites, and it was so, that when these Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay;

Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth, and he said Shibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.

**Shibboleth** (a Hebrew word meaning an ear of corn or a spear) was the test word chosen to separate friend from foe. The Ephraimites, unable to pronounce the sound sh, were recognized by that test and slain.

Thousands of years later on the peninsula of Bataan history repeated itself. The Japanese were successfully infiltrating our lines by learning the password and posing as friendly Filipinos. On January 20, 1942 the Americans put a stop to this practice by the simple expedient of choosing *lollapalooza* as the password. Since the Japanese are unable to pronounce the sound of l, of which lollapalooza has its share, the sentries were ordered to fire upon anyone who could not say the word. The closest the Japanese got to our lines was "extra-parooza."

Neuter home, American citizens were entering Canada to escape the draft. Immigration officials found it difficult to distinguish between Canadian and American citizens. This time a language difference was used as a *shibboleth*. When they were in doubt, officials asked the tourist to name the last letter of the alphabet. Americans always called it "zee" but the Canadians, like the French and British, called it "zed."

These tests based on speech and language differences are true and literal *shibboleths*, but today the word *shibboleth* is used in a different sense to mean a watchword or off-

repeated slogan rather than a password used as a hint. A book reviewer in the *Saturday Review* used it in this sense: "The ancient American shibboleth of success—save your money, keep your shoes shined, and get to work on time." Often the word *shibboleth* is used to characterize a phrase to which only lip service is given. "What we need today," someone has said, "is not the shibboleth of democracy but its dynamic practice."

### ROME, THE ETERNAL

Democracy, as we all know, means the rule of the people—*Il* the people. But there have been times in the world's history when great sections of the people were looked on with contempt by their rulers as unfit to take part in the duties of citizens. So it was in the very early days of Rome. A king, Servius Tullius, divided the people into five classes to contribute to the state's defense. He reasoned that those who had the most property should be called upon to contribute the most to its defense. However, he omitted one group, the class having little or no wealth. Later writers called this sixth group *proletarii*, "a name," says Aulus Gellius, "derived from their duty and function of producing offspring, for although they could not greatly aid the state with what small property they had, yet they added to the population of their country by their power of begetting children."

*Proletarii* is a Latin word for offspring and because the poor were *prolific* "and served the state not with their property but with their offspring" they were given the name *proletarii* from which come our words *proletarian* and *proletariat*.

However, when Rome became a world power it called on the *proletarii* and others to aid it. Before that time, without the services of its poorer members, the Roman state waged small wars with neighboring tribes to extend its power over the Italian peninsula. In one of these wars, in the year 458 B.C., the Romans inflicted a crushing defeat on a tribe called the Aequi. Cincinnatus, the commander and legal dictator of the Romans, said

"he did not require the blood of the Aequi; they might go, but, that they might at least be forced to confess that their nation had been defeated and subdued, they should pass beneath the yoke as they departed. A yoke was fashioned of three spears, two being fixed in the ground and the third laid across them and made fast. Under this yoke the dictator led the Aequi."

\* Livy's *History of Rome* translated by E. O. Foster in the Loeb Library.

This custom of making a defeated army pass under a yoke was called *subjugatio* (sub, under and *jugo*, a yoke). The defeated soldiers were made to crawl in single file under the unimproved yoke. The Roman commander had achieved his purpose—he had *subjugated* the enemy.

We still keep the picturesque ceremony of passing under a yoke but apply it under most pleasant and romantic conditions. Pictures of West Coast weddings show the bride and groom marching under "an arch of swords." As a six wedding couples have been photographed passing under upraised sick, at weddings of baseball players, under crossed bats. Of course, the symbol of the yoke here has nothing to do with *subjugation*. The relationship is purely conjugal—the bride and groom are joined together (*jug*, yoke, and *con*, together).

Some still doubt whether the man who wanted to build a military empire greater than the Roman Empire, who tried to *subjugate* the whole world is really dead. But if you read *The Last Days of Hitler*, by H. E. Trevor-Roper, there can be little doubt. "The characters in this later-day *Ottoburnerung*," an advertisement tells us, "include Hitler's fantastic court of teachers, quack doctors, astrologers and would-be betrayers. Enacted against a grotesque background—an underground bunker in the heart of Berlin—the story culminates in the sinister and ritual burning" of Hitler and some of his associates. A reviewer refers to this manner of Hitler's death as his self-*annihilation*. And that is precisely what Hitler wanted his death to mean to the Germans, an act of martyrdom and sacrifice.

*Annihilation*, a sacrifice, comes from the Latin word *anala*, ground grain or meal. In Roman religious practices, the priest would sprinkle sanctified ground grain and salt on the animal's head. The sprinkling with meal or ground grain was technically the *anulatio*. It was a preparatory act but later came to mean the sacrifice itself.

We linger on in Rome but we let the years roll by, years that see Rome lose her military supremacy. However, she remains the Eternal City; for she has become the religious capital of the western world. At the head is the Pope, and our next word is concerned with the election of a Pope. In the year 1274, in order to hasten the election of a new Pope and to prevent outside interference, the procedure in use today was officially adopted.

After the death of a Pope, the College of Cardinals is convened and meets in a walled-off section of the Vatican. The



Marshal locks the door from the outside, and a designated cardinal locks it from the inside. The door is not opened again until a new Pope has been elected. Each morning and evening the cardinals vote. If no candidate gets the required two-thirds vote, the ballots are burned in a stove whose chimney extends through a window of the Sistine Chapel. Smoke is added to show the spectators outside by its thick smoke that the new Pope has not yet been chosen. This meeting is called a *conclave*, literally a meeting locked with (con-) a key (clave). The word *conclave* is today applied to any large or important meeting.

## MONASTERY BELLS

To other customs and institutions of the church centuries ago we are indebted for additional interesting words. During the dark ages of Europe's history the monks kept learning alive through their devoted labors in the monasteries. They copied by hand the manuscripts of the great works of ancient authors and set down the services and holy books of the Church.

The monks adorned their manuscripts, especially those made for use in church services, with beautiful decorations painted in bright colors and gold. They followed the practice of Roman scribes who used red ink for headings and special parts of chapters. Such a special heading or initial letter in red was called a *rubric* (from *ruber*, Latin for 'red'). Since the heading in red often gave instructions, the word *rubric* came to mean a directive or a rule of conduct. More recently the meaning of the word has been still further extended until today writers use it to mean a special motif, set phrase, or even a cliché, meanings not yet recorded in our dictionaries.

The monks illustrated manuscripts not only of sacred books and secular literature but also of musical compositions used in the church services, such as masses and hymns. Guido d'Arezzo, a Benedictine monk of the eleventh century, a teacher of singing, invented a Great Scale which is the basis of our modern musical notation. He used letters to indicate the notes and corresponding to each letter he used a syllable which can be sung, since it is impossible to sing single consonants. He started his scale with the Greek letter *Gamma*, which is C, and called its corresponding note *Ut*.

Guido d'Arezzo took the syllables *Ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la* from

a hymn to St. John the Baptist)

ut quæstus hinc struere fletu  
 Mire posturum farnach sacrum  
 scire pollute labris vocem  
 Sanele Johannes.

("That thy servants may sing out thy woodroos arse strongly and freely, remove the pait from their polluted lips, St. John.")

Later *ai* was changed to *de*, which is easier to sing since it ends in a vowel, and *si* was added, probably from the initial letter of *Sanele Johannes* (St. John).

The entire scale was known as the *ganma-ai* or *ganist* from the first note and its equivalent syllable, just as *alphabet* is derived from the first two Greek letters, *alpha* and *beta*. *Ganma*, the complete scale of notes, is applied to fields other than music and means the entire range or compass of any activity.

Another word which comes from a hymn is *dirge*, a funeral song. *Dirge* is a contraction of the first word of a Latin funeral service which begins, "*Dirige, Domine, Deus meus, in conspectu tuo viam,*" (O Lord, my God, direct my way in Thy sight.) This is based on *Psalm 5:8*—" . . . make Thy way straight before my face."

## IN THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY

During the period when the monks were keeping alive the heritage of learning, knighthood came into flower. We stop for only one word, *accolade*. The *accolade* was the final step conferring knighthood. The early kings of France were etymologically correct when they placed their arms around the neck (*ad*, to, and *collum*, neck) of the newly-made knight in order to kiss them. French guards and officials still keep up the custom of the *accolade* when they kiss the cheeks of the man whom they honor with an award.

William the Conqueror, a man's man, is said to have used his fist in conferring knighthood. Later a gentle stroke with the flat of the sword on the side of the neck (we get back to *ad* and *collum* again) or on the shoulder was substituted for a blow with the fist. Supposedly the words that accompanied the tap were, "And now I dub thee knight." Originally, *dub* meant to call or name, but because of its association with the anointing act in the ceremony, it came to mean *to gild*. So,

a poor golfer who dubs a shot merely taps the ball on the neck or shoulder instead of swinging through cleanly.

The word *accolade* has made a full circle from its original literal meaning to its modern figurative meaning of "crowning-praise." Here are two examples which show how the word is now used to mean the honor bestowed rather than the physical act of bestowing an honor.

One hesitates to quarrel with a book that comes with the accolade of such diverse thinkers as John Dewey and Donald Ogden Stewart and Albert Einstein and Dorothy Parker.

The report, however, characterized Jackson Parilla and Samuel as "qualified" while for Justice Coleman it reserved the accolade of "exceptionally qualified."

### JOURNEY'S END

And so we too complete a circle and come to the end of our etymological journey, a word which has come a long way.

*Junket* is from the Latin *januar*, a twig resembling a rush. Originally a junket referred to a basket made of rushes and twigs. Preparations of cheese and cream used to be served on these mats just as in India and other tropical lands foods like betel-nut paste are served on plantain leaves. Soon a junket came to mean any preparation of cream and cheese or any delicacy served on the mats. Finally it was applied to a feast or banquet, especially when served out-of-doors. That's the usual meaning of *junket* in England.

But in the United States *junket* took on an additional meaning—a pleasure excursion or a picnic. The more recent political use of the word probably stems from the clambakes, the oyster-fries, and the beer and pretzel feasts which were the natural climax of the free excursions once offered by political clubs and parties to their followers. So, any pleasure excursion is called a *junket*.

We hope that this etymological junket has been a joy ride for you, a joy ride that has helped to convince you that:

1. Words have an interesting history.
2. Their history makes the meanings of words more vivid.
3. Words change with the times and adapt themselves to new surroundings.
4. Learning the history of the words makes you know them better and makes it easier to remember them.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### I. Synonym Families

In each of the following ten groups you'll find at least one word whose history you have learned in this chapter. Around each is a cluster of three synonyms and one word whose meaning is not related to the other words in the group. Select the word in each cluster that does not belong. Answers for this section will be found on page 365.

1. (a) gaudy (b) tawdry (c) delicate (d) showy (e) pretentious
2. (a) mendacious (b) buffoon (c) mountebank (d) charlatan (e) quack
3. (a) loutish (b) syzyphous (c) counterfeiter (d) hang-on (e) parasite
4. (a) laconic (b) pithy (c) succinct (d) terse (e) verbose
5. (a) slogan (b) watchword (c) shibboleth (d) wariness (e) pet phrase
6. (a) garnet (b) harmony (c) scope (d) range (e) parview
7. (a) dinge (b) dreg (c) lamentation (d) drearily (e) eulogy
8. (a) effusion (b) accolade (c) ovation (d) salutation (e) award
9. (a) jacket (b) top (c) expedition (d) popularity (e) journey
10. (a) pacific (b) poor (c) facile (d) propagative (e) fruitful

### II. Can You Match These?

The words on the left were formed from the roots of some of the words appearing in this chapter. From the column on the right select a definition to match each of the words on the left.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. panegyric   | a. a strip of land enclosed within foreign territory |
| 2. perfluviate | b. an aspect of a problem or situation               |
| 3. rubicund    | c. an observable fact                                |
| 4. enclave     | d. a tooth that grinds food                          |
| 5. category    | e. reddish, ruddy                                    |
| 6. phrase      | f. a speech of praise                                |
| 7. clavicle    | g. to reproduce rapidly                              |
| 8. nachstrom   | h. classification                                    |
| 9. phenomenon  | i. a grinding whirlpool                              |
| 10. sodar      | j. a condition of slavery                            |
|                | k. the collarbone                                    |

### SOME FAMOUS LACONISMS

1. One day in March, 1942, David F. Mason, chief aviation machinist's mate, USN, saw a Japanese submarine while he

was on patrol duty. He dropped several depth charges, observed the wreckage, and rescued!

MENTED THE SAME NAME.

2. An Athenian candidate spoke for a few hours making a brilliant speech full of promises. His opponent arose at the end and declared, "All that he said, I will do."

3. Shortly after the appearance of *Les Misérables* Victor Hugo and his publisher carried on the shortest correspondence on record. Hugo's letter contained only the following:

?

His heart was gladdened when the publisher replied with:

!

4. The celebrated English surgeon, John Abernethy, (1764-1831) was a man of few words. A lady patient who knew this came into his office one day, bared her arm, and said, "Bum." Dr. Abernethy replied, "Foulter." She returned the next day and said, "Boiter." He answered, "Continue treatment." A few days later she returned and asked, "Pec?" At last Dr. Abernethy became talkative. "Nothing. You are the most scrutable patient I ever met in my life."

5. About 2,500 years ago, a barber asked Archelaus, a Macedonian king, how he wanted his hair trimmed. Archelaus answered, "In silence."



"No, I tell you this is a stalagmite and that is a stalactite!" \*

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## 11. Something to Remember Them By

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THE REAL problem in vocabulary building is not to find words to add to your store or to find out what they mean. The problem is to find a way of remembering them—so you don't have to go back to the dictionary time after time to check on a memory that has failed you.

At this point let us remind you of the various methods we

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\* Drawing reproduced courtesy "Of the Manners of the Year."

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

have suggested of fixing and clarifying the meanings of words. These methods are based on the principle that to fix something in our minds we must associate the specific thing we want to remember with something we know or something we can learn easily.

We have made five principal suggestions:

1. Since the normal way of meeting a new word is to come across it in what we read and hear, we can sometimes remember the meaning of the word if we can recall the context or the situation in which the word occurred. (See Chapter 2, "The Company Words Keep.")
2. Often we can clinch the meaning of a word by concentrating on and properly identifying the prefix, especially when it strongly colors the meaning of the word. (See Chapter 7, "Pre-Fixing Words," and Chapter 8, "Count Off.")
3. Sometimes just dividing words into recognizable shorter units will unlock and fix the meaning of a word. (See Chapter 3, "Divide and Conquer.")
4. Frequently we can attach the meaning of a word firmly to our minds by its root and the words that cluster around it. (See Chapter 4, "Deep Are the Roots," and Chapter 5, "Brief Encounters.")
5. Finally, knowing the story behind the word, knowing something of its historical past can enable us to fix its meaning. (See Chapter 10, "Every Word Has a History.")

## TRICKS OF MEMORY

There are other methods that apply to fewer words; there are tricks and devices that can help us in specific cases. We consider no trick or device too low when a larger vocabulary is the goal. Sometimes we must stoop to conquer.

One of the time-tested ways of remembering a series of items is known as a mnemonic device. *Mnemonic* (the *m* is silent) comes to us from the Greek root *mnē*, to remember. We can fix the meaning of this word right away by associating it with words that cluster around the root *mnē*. A person who suffers from *amnesia* has lost his memory, the prefix *a* uttering a decided, "No!" A government that offers *amnesty* to a group of rebellious citizens is really saying, "Let's forget it." The Greek goddess of memory was *Mnemosyne*, a fickle lady!

A bright little school had found that out. He was told he

## SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THEM BY

could remember the date of Columbus' discovery of America by memorizing:

In fourteen hundred ninety two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

The next day he had forgotten the couplet, but remembering that there was a rhyme involved boldly recited:

In fourteen hundred ninety three  
Columbus sailed the dark blue sea.

Despite such occasional mishaps the system of remembering with rhyme's artful aid has been an accepted teaching method since early times. Many of us spell, believe and recite correctly because we remember that it's

i before e  
except after c  
or when sounded as a  
as in neighbor and weigh.

It's a good rhyme but not a good rule. It's more useful to say:

i before e  
when sounded like ee  
except after c.

Students in colleges and universities learn long lists of names and facts with the aid of mnemonics. You may recall the scene in *Arrowsmith*\* in which the fraternity boys of Digamma Pi get together for a bull session. Sinclair Lewis writes:

No discussion at the Digamma Pi supper was more violent than the incessant debate over the value to a doctor . . . of remembering anatomical terms. But no matter what they thought, they all agreed out at learning the lists of names which enable a man to crawl through examinations . . . Unknown signs had inscribed names which enabled them to memorize. At supper—the thirty phlegmatic Digamma sitting at a long and spotted table, devouring clam chowder and beans and codfish balls and banana layer-cake—the Frothman earnestly repeated after a senior:

On old Olympus' topmost top  
A fat-voiced German viewed a hop.

Then by association with the initial letters they muttered

\* By Sinclair Lewis, copyright 1911, Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.



the twelve cranial nerves: olfactory, optic, acoustic, trochlear, and the rest. To the Dapens it was the world's noblest poem, and they remembered it for years after they had become practicing physicians and altogether forgotten the names of the nerves themselves.

### WORDS OF MANY LETTERS

Rhymes are not the sole basis of mnemonic devices. Sometimes we use the first or first few letters of the separate items we have to remember and try to make a pronounceable word of them, very much the way certain many-worded bureaus, agencies, or organizations are called UNESCO, UNICEF, NATO, SEATO, etc. Words formed in this way are called *acronyms*. So, radar is formed from radio detecting and ranging; Loran (loran) from Long Range Navigation, and sonar, sound navigation ranging.

And there are some other interesting ones: WAVES, for instance, are Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service in the U. S. Navy. Their British sisters are WRENS, Women's Royal Naval Service plus an inserted E. How many who generously send CARE packages know that they are doing so through the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere?

One of the most interesting and viable acronyms was originally military slang—SNAFU (situation normal, all fouled up). On March 2, 1951, the *New York Herald Tribune* gave this word status and respectability by using it on Page 1 in a headline!

### KENNEDY-ON-TAPE RESULTS IN SNAFU

The news story used the word confusion thus implying that a *snafu* is a chaotic situation that is not altogether unexpected.

### UP OR DOWN

The tricks of mnemonics are useful when we want to distinguish between words we sometimes confuse. Every day thousands of visitors to the Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico and the Luray Caverns of Virginia marvel at the truly magnificent formations known as stalagmites and stalactites. And every day hundreds of these visitors wonder which is which, which are the stalagmites and which the stalactites. A mnemonic device does the trick—and does it forever. Stalactite, the word with the *c* in it comes down from the ceiling of the

can. Stagflation, which has the *g* in it, grows up from the ground.

Sometimes we even have trouble distinguishing such simple terms as *bull* and *bear* as used in the stock market. What is "bullish" and what is "bearish"? Which is up and which is down? Again the artifice of mnemonics comes to our aid.

1. A bull is an optimistic speculator who buys because he expects prices to go up. His opposite is the bear who expects them to go down and sells.

2. A bull, who tries to "up" prices, can be associated with the animal's habit of tossing up with his horns; a bear, who tries to depress prices, with that animal's habit of clawing down.

3. Finally, you can remember the meaning of *bear* from the most authentic story of its origin. There's an old English proverb, "to sell the skin before one has caught the bear." In Exchange Alley, London, during the eighteenth century, the phrase "bear-skin jobber" was applied to a certain type of stock speculator. He sold the "bear-skin" or "bear," that is, he sold for future delivery stock which he did not own at the time of sale. He hoped that the price would drop by the time of delivery so that he could profit to the extent of the difference between the price on the day of sale and the lower price on the day of delivery.

#### MORE SINNED AGAINST . . .

We'll stoop a little lower for the next one. There's an English expression "to cry *peccavi*," which means to admit one's guilt, to confess an error or wrongdoing. *Peccavi* is a Latin verb meaning "I have sinned." How can we fit that? How can we remember that beyond the moment?

Let's turn to an item that appeared in *Parade* on May 14, 1954:

It is a common idea that the most laconic military dispatch was that sent by Caesar to the Roman Senate at Rome, containing the three memorable words, "*Pani, uidi, vici*," and that perhaps, until our own day, no like instance of brevity has been found. The dispatch of Sir Charles Napier, after the capture of Scinde, to Lord Ellenborough, both for brevity and truth, is however, far beyond it. The dispatch consisted of one word, *Peccavi*—I have Scinde (sinned).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This pun, like so many other sayings attributed to famous persons, was not the work of its reputed author. However, before the truth about its authorship could be discovered, it served as a lesson lesson in England because the taking of Scinde had involved much bloodshed and the pun was considered to point facts.

Sinde is now spelled Sind which makes the pun even better. This district in India has figured in the news in recent years because its largest city, Karachi, became the capital of the newly-created country of Pakistan.

This story from Paruch fixes the meaning of *perceiv* through a pun and a striking account of a historical event. We can still further clinch its meaning and that of related words if we apply our method of clusters to the root *PERC*. The idea of *perc* runs through *perceive*, *impeccable* (also *impeccant*), and *perceivable*. *Perceive* of course means *seeing*, *impeccable*, *flawless* or *faultless*, and *perceivable* a *small* or *trifling* sin or *fault*.

And so we urge you to apply all the principles of association we have summarized and repeated in this chapter and any other tricks or devices that will help you fix and remember cluster words.

## HOW MANY CAN YOU REMEMBER?

### I. Look Them Over Again

Do you remember the preliminary test you took at the end of Chapter I, page 30? You have met many of those words in the chapters following that test. You might be interested in taking that test over again to compare your score now with your score then.

### II. How Many Words Have You Learned?

Here's another test containing words chosen from the many words we've discussed in the preceding eleven chapters.

In each line below you will find one word in small capitals followed by four words or phrases. In each case select the word or phrase that has most nearly the same meaning as the capitalized word. Answers will be found on page 365.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. ASSOCIATION | (a) pervasiveness (b) repeat (c) extension<br>(d) investigation |
| 2. ABUNDANT    | (a) temperate (b) superfluous (c) hesitant<br>(d) careful       |
| 3. ACCORD      | (a) affection (b) reward (c) arrival<br>(d) welcome             |
| 4. ACROPHONY   | four of: (a) dogs (b) high places<br>(c) going out (d) thunder  |
| 5. AMENABLE    | (a) religious (b) tried (c) responsive<br>(d) unheeded          |
| 6. AMENITY     | (a) pardon (b) hiding place (c) rebellion<br>(d) farewell       |

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THEM BY

7. ANTIPODES	(a) foot adjacent (b) exact opposite (c) hatred (d) shortness
8. APATHY	(a) suffering (b) curiosity (c) patience (d) indifference
9. AUBURN	(a) increase (b) having tool (c) autumn (d) furnishing
10. AUTONOMY	(a) quick action (b) request (c) machine (d) self-rule
11. BANE	(a) poison (b) wickedness (c) deterioration (d) ruin
12. BICAMERAL	(a) having two chambers (b) photo- grapher (c) antique (d) double-printed
13. BUOYANT	(a) lush (b) sunny (c) sunny (d) quiet
14. CLANGOROUS	(a) hand written (b) rudimentary (c) secret (d) daily
15. COGNOSCENTI	(a) experts (b) ball players (c) perfume dealers (d) teachers
16. COAGULATE	(a) contribute (b) surround (c) pardon (d) bring together
17. COOPERATION	(a) great crime (b) defense (c) raising (d) confirmation
18. CRUX	(a) outcome (b) weakness (c) critical point (d) candle-holder
19. CRYPTIC	(a) metallic (b) secret (c) open (d) stolen
20. DAIR	(a) easy chair (b) district (c) raised platform (d) after-dinner speaker
21. DENIER	(a) police (b) underworld (c) inhabitant (d) agent
22. DEPLETIF	(a) fill again (b) mock at (c) empty out (d) unfold
23. DICHOTOMY	(a) division (b) plant (c) religious office (d) struggle
24. DILEMMA	(a) exposure (b) twisting (c) deliberation (d) boundary
25. EPOCH	(a) song of mourning (b) instructions (c) wave (d) scarcity
26. EPOCH	(a) sculpture (b) telegram (c) prima donna (d) dancer
27. DOUBT	(a) hesitating (b) stem (c) vigorous (d) stony
28. PARADOXICAL	(a) apocryphal (b) separated (c) out- standing (d) assembled
29. EPOCH	(a) strange animal (b) cat (c) foreign woman (d) great desire
30. EPOCH	(a) head (b) end (c) prolonged (d) aged
31. EPOCH	(a) urine (b) scrape (c) sharpen (d) make clear

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

32. ENCLAVE	(a) fortified area (b) composed systems (c) free city (d) district enclosed within alien territory
33. EPHEMERAL	(a) short lived (b) coexisting (c) shoddy (d) busy
34. EMBEZZLE	(a) eat slowly (b) avoid (c) cheat (d) lose
35. ETHNIC	(a) foreign (b) moral (c) legal (d) racial
36. EXCULPATE	(a) free from blame (b) cut out (c) drive away (d) shatter
37. EXPOSITE	(a) get in the way (b) hasten (c) send away (d) treat the foot
38. EXTORT	(a) own out (b) answer (c) decrease (d) do wrong
39. FACTITIOUS	(a) historical (b) fictional (c) artificial (d) natural
40. FALSY	(a) swearing (b) softness (c) falseness (d) sensuality
41. FEASIBLE	(a) practicable (b) impossible (c) de- ceptive (d) financial
42. FETTER	(a) expressing affection (b) headroom (c) style (d) magic cure
43. FIAT	(a) failure (b) message (c) decree (d) vacuum
44. FLUX	(a) fall (b) conclusion (c) change (d) lay
45. GUILD	(a) frightful (b) soft (c) mass (d) lay
46. HARBINGER	(a) forerunner (b) drunken revel (c) safe position (d) dock worker
47. HEATONIC	(a) sensory (b) great daughter (c) bee- hive (d) geometric figure
48. HOMOCENTRIC	(a) mainly (b) started (c) creamy (d) similar
49. ICON	(a) glass (b) old book (c) image (d) Russian coin
50. ILLEY	(a) easy (b) free (c) not legal (d) open- less
51. INCISE	(a) drink in (b) learn (c) enter (d) de- posit
52. INHIBITED	(a) quarrel (b) decoration (c) barren (d) scandal
53. INIMICULATE	(a) useless (b) beautiful (c) ornamental (d) well-dressed
54. IMMUTABLE	(a) unchangeable (b) yielding (c) dumb (d) short
55. IMPARTABLE	(a) unbreakable (b) tightly packed (c) visible (d) fluidness

# SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THEM BY

56. PUGNAC	(a) burn (b) suffer (c) grow hard (d) promise
57. INTRINSIC	(a) complex (b) uncompromised (c) deepness (d) traveling
58. VUL	(a) put (b) small area (c) crime (d) large oven
59. LACONIC	(a) elaborate (b) terse (c) talkative (d) lingering
60. LAKE	(a) heat (b) dislike (c) wash (d) defeat
61. LOGISTIC	(a) media (b) diplomatic (c) reasoning (d) supplying and quartering troops
62. LUCUBRATE	(a) polish (b) ed (c) illuminate (d) study hard
63. MERCENARY	(a) bartering (b) habit of haggling (c) self-improvement (d) replacing destruction
64. MERE	(a) accomplice (b) Charon vase (c) bearing (d) anger
65. MIMICRY	(a) imitation (b) shouting (c) plant (d) insect
66. MULEY	(a) thank over (b) soften with soap (c) pasture (d) take away by robbery
67. NADE	(a) month (b) common level (c) disgrace (d) lowest point
68. NEBULOUS	(a) cloudy (b) clear (c) sorry (d) intoxicated
69. NEOPHYTE	(a) leech (b) beginner (c) warrior (d) lamb
70. NERD	(a) insect (b) vein (c) link (d) neighbor
71. OBSCURIFICATION	(a) destruction (b) circulation (c) going out of use (d) opposition
72. OVEN	(a) shame (b) piece of music (c) hard- ship (d) burden
73. OPULENT	(a) soothing (b) hopeful (c) wealthy (d) attacking
74. PANACEA	(a) over-all (b) oceanic island (c) inter- national agreement (d) wind organ
75. PARADOX	(a) soothing medicine (b) great praise (c) contrary (d) market place
76. PEDIATRICIAN	(a) teacher (b) children's doctor (c) statesman (d) foot specialist
77. PERNICIOUS	(a) impoverished (b) lovely (c) hardy (d) stony
78. PERIPHERY	(a) workless (b) territory (c) circumfer- ence (d) winding road
79. PLUTICORN	(a) overabundance (b) sadness (c) mas- sive instrument (d) weakness

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

80. POLYGLOT	(a) speaking several languages (b) foreign (c) martyred (d) wealthy
81. PRISON	(a) grew old (b) stood ahead (c) public (d) predict
82. PROGRESSIVE	(a) put off (b) make progress (c) prefer (d) chicken
83. PROLEGOMEN	(a) conversation (b) pen name (c) de- ception (d) novel
84. PUNY	(a) rising (b) wild (c) paganism (d) being
85. QUOTING	(a) fast-food (b) foreign (c) protective (d) vocabulary
86. RENOVATE	(a) begin (b) make new again (c) clean thoroughly (d) acknowledge
87. RESINE	(a) change (b) raised (c) climb (d) confirm
88. SALIENT	(a) only (b) prominent (c) valuable (d) considerable
89. SAT	(a) drank (b) declare (c) glee (d) educate
90. SCRATCHED	(a) bright (b) tough (c) dull (d) new- toothed
91. SPHERULITE	(a) ancient soldier (b) sloven (c) word- less (d) vegetable
92. SUBTERFUGE	(a) overmanagement (b) hobby (c) com- pulsion (d) evasion
93. SUPERBOODY	(a) pertaining to a well (b) non-existent (c) at a high altitude (d) inquisitive
94. SYCOPHANT	(a) character (b) parasite (c) can- tore official (d) spouse
95. TITILLATE	(a) slow motion (b) theory (c) heart contraction (d) arrangement
96. TONG	(a) request (b) hook (c) station (d) tool
97. TRIVET	(a) kettleholder (b) golf stick (c) cam- era (d) cheap jewel
98. TRO	(a) rich man (b) beginner (c) trial per- son (d) absolute ruler
99. UNWINDING	(a) slow (b) quick (c) free (d) pure
100. VALET	(a) horse (b) settle in the country (c) attack (d) malice

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## II. I'D RATHER BE RIGHT

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*"You will please address me as 'Librarian,' Sir—I am not a 'Bookie!'"\**

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## 12. Mistaken Identities

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A TAXI-DRIVER whose fixed fee is fifty cents for the trip from the Mayflower Hotel in Washington to one of the government buildings received just that amount from a pompous-looking customer.

"That's correct, isn't it?" the man asked as the caddy stared at the two quarters in the palm of his hand.

"It's correct," answered the caddy, "but it isn't right."

We're not going to make any such fine distinctions between what is correct and what is right. Nor are we going to go as far in the other direction as Jack Billings did. "When

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\* Drawing reproduced courtesy *Reader's Digest*.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

A man sets down a poor umbrella," he once wrote, "and he takes up a good one, he makes a *versatile*, but when he sets down a good umbrella and takes up a poor one, he makes a *blunder*."

Such distinctions matter only for the punch line of a good story or the phrasing of a witty retort. We are dealing here with broader distinctions that that. We are dealing here with words whose identities are sometimes mistaken and which are therefore confused with other words or misused for them.

### THESE LOOK OR SOUND ALIKE

There are many words that are similar in spelling or pronunciation and sometimes we mistakenly reach for a word because it seems to have the right sound or look.

#### ABJURE, ADJURE

*Abjure*: "swear off" the use of, to renounce, to give up.

*Adjure*: appeal to earnestly, entreat.

### UNESCO IS ADJURED TO DEFINE FREEDOM

*Adjuration*, the noun formed from *adjure*, means an earnest appeal.

#### AMEND, EMEND

*Amend*: modify, alter by adding something to an original resolution or plan.

*Emend*: to take out errors and make corrections.

The corresponding nouns are *amendment* and *emendation*.

#### BASILICA, BASILISK

SHERLOCK HOLMES: Miss Cartwright? She grows on the stones. She has an eye like a basilisk.

(from broadcast on ABC)

These two words are probably never confused by those who use them, but we list them here as we do many others in this section because they are interesting and because we have come across them in our newspaper reading.

Actually, the two are related, for both are derived from the root of *basileus*, the Greek word for king. The idea of power and royalty resides in them, as in the name of the plant basil and the masculine name Basil.

*Basilisk*: "little king"; a fabulous lizard, dragon, or serpent whose breath drove other reptiles away and whose very look was thought to be fatal. Shakespeare often refers to the supposed

## MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

power of the basilisk, as in the exchange between Gloucester and Lady Anne (*Richard III*, Act I, Scene 2):

Gloucester: Those eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.  
Lady Anne: Would they were basilisks, to strike thee dead!

**Basilisk:** "royal porphyry." In ancient Rome the basilica was a building used for social and commercial meetings. It had a nave or long central hall rising higher than the colonnaded sides and an apse or projection, generally semicircular. The early Christian churches were modeled after the basilicas. The title *basilica* is given to certain Roman Catholic churches and carries with it special liturgical privileges.

### BESEDE, BESIDE

*Beside:* alongside.

*Besides:* in addition to.

Author of Duffy's Taxum used to say "and further *beside*" just to make sure you didn't misunderstand him.

### BIENNUELLY, BIENNIAL

*Biennially:* twice a year.

*Biennially:* every two years.

In 1927 the difference in meaning was strongly brought home to the members of the New Jersey State Legislature, when they discovered with a start that they had passed a bill providing, according to the printed version of the law, that members to the Assembly be elected *biennially* (twice a year). There was taxpayer's money to pay! A special session had to be called to correct the "typographical error."

### CAPRICIOUS, CAPTIOUS

**Capricious:** adjective from *caprice*, a whim; *capricious* (second syllable rhymes with wish) means apt to change suddenly, unpredictable.

**Captious:** from Latin *cap*, *capt*, meaning to seize or catch; therefore, eager to catch others at mistake. A *capious* critic is faultfinding to a fault, carping, curdling.

### CENSOR, CENSURE

*Censor:* to suppress, forbid, delete.

*Censure:* to criticize adversely, reprimand, rebuke.

The adjective *censorious*, however, is, in meaning and use, more closely related to *censure*. A *censorious* person is severely critical of the action and behavior of others, capicious and censorious at the same time.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### CHAOTIC, INCHOATE

*Chaotic*, adjective from *chaos*, is a state of complete confusion.  
*Inchoate* (inkōatē): from a Latin word meaning to begin; just beginning, therefore still rudimentary or undeveloped.

Those words come close in meaning because things in their early stages (*inchoate*) may also be in a state of confusion (*chaotic*).

### CHARY, WARY

Though similar in meaning wary stresses suspiciousness, an alienist agent being taken on (like *be wary*), whereas *chary* stresses carefulness, great reserve and discretion.

If you are *chary* of praise, you give it sparingly; if you are wary of praise you take it sparingly because you are on guard against it.

Is the headline

## NAM CHARY OF PRICE CONTROLS

WARY would have been better

### CLIMACTIC, CLIMATIC

*Climactic*, from *climax*: therefore, the *c* must appear in the word and be pronounced. A *climax* is a crowning effect. Something that is *ant climactic* knocks the crown away or knocks it off altogether.

*Climatic*, from *climate*.

### COMPLACENT, COMPLAISANT

Though they may be pronounced alike, they are very different in meaning. Both are derived from the same root, *plac*, to please. *Complacence* is closer to the Latin; *complaisance* made a detour through French to get to us. In both words the prefix *com* is *in-*crease, meaning very.

*Complacent*: very pleased (with oneself); self-satisfied, smug.

*Complaisant*: willing to please others; therefore, obsequious, compliant, affable, gracious.

### CONTINUAL, CONTINUOUS

*Continual*, recurring at intervals.

*Continuous*: going on without a break.

### DEDUCE, DEDUCT

P. Moran, Fictival Wilde's comedy detective and "deductor," always "deducts" when he should be deducing. "Annabel," he says, "I can deduce that man is a stone-mason."

*Deduce*: to conclude or infer something from the evidence given.

## MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

**Defect to defect.**

To *defect* (inferior) is, therefore, almost the opposite of *deduce*, which means to put two and two together.

### DEFINITE, DEFINITIVE

A *definite* statement is specific, concrete, precise, and exact; a *definitive* statement is final and conclusive, the last word on the subject. A *definitive* edition or biography is so complete that it's the edition to end all editions.

### DEPRECATE, DEPRECIATE

Our files are bulging with clippings from newspapers, magazines, and books, in which *deprecate* and *depreciate* are used where *depreciate* and *depreciatory* are called for. At this late date there's nothing much that can be done about it except to tell you how they differ in meaning and how they should differ in use.

To *deprecate* an action is to disapprove of it strongly. The idea of regret that the action has occurred is generally implied.

To *depreciate* an action is to belittle it, to deflate it and lessen its value—opposed to the word *appreciate* which means to value properly or to increase its value.

Here's a mnemonic device that may help to keep the distinction straight: When the meaning is to belittle or belittling, use the word with the *i* in it, either *deprecate* or *depreciatory*.

But it's a lost cause, either way. Here's our most recent exhibit from an editorial in one of our largest and most influential newspapers (written before Astronaut Alan B. Shepard went up into space):

The United States, having sent man into space and safely recovered an astronaut, and having successfully employed solid fuels in Polaris and Minuteman missiles, need not view the Soviet achievement with undue self-deprecation.

### DISCOMFITED, DISCOMFORTED

We have seen and heard the first of these two words often used on the score of being made uncomfortable or embarrassed. *Discomfited* means literally to be completely "undone," to be deflated, to be frustrated.

### DISINTERESTED, UNINTERESTED

*Disinterested* does not mean not interested, although an increasing number of writers are using it in that sense.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

To be *disinterested* is to be without selfish motives or interests, therefore, objective and impartial, unbiased. *Disinterested* means not interested, bored, indifferent.

However, one writer who is not indifferent to this distinction and says so is Richard Watts, Jr., who in his theater column of February 12, 1961, in the *New York Post*, wrote: "A very easy mistake to make in writing is to say 'disinterested' when you mean 'uninterested.'" We have inscribed his name on our Hall of Honor.

Joining him on our Hall of Honor is Orville Prescott of the *New York Times*, who began his book review on March 13, 1961, with the sentence, "Most supposedly civilized people are uninterested in the wonders of nature and indifferent to the beauty, charm, and fascination of wild animals."

### ENORMITY, ENORMOUSNESS

The distinction usually made between these two words has become blurred.

*Enormity* emphasizes the abnormality, the outrageousness of something.

The *enormity* of the offense becomes all the greater after visiting the camps. But displays and photographs of the camps in actual operation are necessary to bring home to the visitor the essential depth of the crime.

*Enormousness* refers to bigness or size.

When one sees the difficulties still facing England and other countries which suffered less physical destruction during the war than Greece, one realizes the *enormity* of the task ahead.

Since the huge size of the task is referred to, *enormousness* would be better here.

### EQUABLE, EQUITABLE

*Equable*: steady, uniform, even-tempered. A country may have an *equable* climate; a person, an *equable* disposition.

*Equitable*: just, fair. A division or distribution of profits or goods may be *equitable*, i.e. in accordance with equity.

### EXOTIC, EXOTERIC, EXOTIC

*Exotic*: recent in the sense of being only for the initiated,

## MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

for those in the inner circle (inn, within, inward, inner).

Many people think the robots are still used only in a limited way and at such remote places as MIT and the Pentagon.

*Exoteric* opposite of *esoteric*, therefore, popular, easily understood, suitable for the general public.

*Exotic*: foreign, strange (ana, outside); unusually colored in appearance.

### URGENT, ENIGMATIC

*Urgent*: urgent, requiring immediate attention.

*Enigmatic*: small, telling.

The urgency of a situation are the urgent needs.

### FACTIOUS, FACTITIOUS, FRACTIOUS

*Factious*: tending to promote internal dissension through formation of factions or cliques.

*Factitious*: artificial, sham, unreal.

*Fractional*: refractory or unruly, apt to break into a passion (fract, broken).

### FLAUNT, FLOUT

Our files also bulge with examples of writers who flout correct usage by using flout where flout is called for.

*Flout*: make a show of, display proudly.

*Flout*: defy, contemptuously pay no attention to, disregard.

There can be nothing but chronic confusion and chaos if court decisions are flouted, whatever the point.

Since the meaning intended is obviously one of disregarding and defying rather than displaying proudly, flout should have been used.

### FORTUITOUS, GRATUITOUS

*Fortuitous*: happening by chance, accidental (*Fortuitous* does not mean fortunate or lucky).

*Gratuitous*: for no good reason, uncalled for (a gratuitous insult), unwarranted (a gratuitous assumption).

### INFLAMMABLE, INFLAMMATORY

The Senator denounced Mr. Johnson's statement as "inflammable."

*Inflammable*: capable of being set on fire, combustible.

*Inflammatory*: likely to inflame passions, cause strong emotions.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Speeches or statements may be *inflammatory*: the paper they're written or printed on is *inflammable*. That's why the Senator's denunciation would have been more effective if he had used *inflammatory*.

### INGENUOUS, INGENUOUS

*Ingenious*: clever, resourceful. (A genius is likely to be clever and resourceful.)

*Ingenue*: frank, candid, unsophisticated, naive. The opposite is *dishonest*, *insincere*, not frank.

### JUDICIAL, JUDICIOUS

*Judicial*: disinterested, fair, like a judge.

*Judicious*: wise, prudent, sensible.

A *judicial* decision is one handed down by the court. If it is a wise decision, it is also *judicious*.

### LIE, LAY

We decided to include these words in a vocabulary book because their misuse is probably the most common error we in America make. Even those who know how to use these two troublesome verbs fear them.

We once heard a very charming Southern novelist say to an audience of teachers of English:

I don't know why you asked me to speak to you. Why, I've never been able to learn the difference between *lie* and *lay*. The character in my stories always *lie* or *stand*. I never let 'em get near a bed. People in my stories just never get a rest.

What makes the already difficult distinction between *lie* and *lay* even more difficult is the existence of another *lie*, meaning to tell an untruth.

*Lie* means to recline.

(Correct: I'm tired, I'm going to rest. I'm going to *lie* down.)

*Lay* means to put down or place.

(Correct: Put that pistol down, Babe. *Lay* that pistol down.)

But that's only the beginning. The fact that other forms of these verbs overlap makes things worse. Watch carefully!

	<i>Recline</i>	<i>Put Down</i>	<i>Tell Untruth</i>
Present:	I am lying down.	I am laying the book on the desk.	He is lying.



## MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

Past:	I <i>lay</i> down yesterday.	I <i>laid</i> the book on the desk.	He <i>laid</i> yesterday.
Present:	I've <i>lain</i> in bed all day.	I have already <i>laid</i> the book on the desk.	He's <i>laid</i> all his life.

Here's a rule of thumb and a mnemonic that may help.

When you can substitute *it*, use *laid*: The book *laid* (or is lying) on the desk now.

When you can substitute *was*, use *lay*: The book *lay* on the desk yesterday.

When you can substitute *has been*, use *lain*: The book *has lain* on the desk all week.

Christopher Morley once wrote a clever limerick paying tribute to the difficulty of these two words and offering an amusing way of remembering how to distinguish between them. We reprint it here with "the blessing" he graciously bestowed upon us.

LIE and LAY offer slips to the pen  
That have troubled most excellent men.  
You may say that you lay  
In bed, yesterday;  
If you do it today, you're a hee.

And here finally is an example of a sentence that is correct, a note the early<sub>19</sub> milkman found one morning:

Dear Milkman: Please *lay* a dozen eggs on my front porch.

To which our milkman, like our cab driver, might have said,

"It's correct, lady, but it ain't right."

## LUXURIOUS, LUSCIOUS

*Luxurious*, growing profusely.

*Luscious*, succulent, suggesting comfort and ease.

Advertisements that tell of apartments for rent or houses for sale that are *luxuriously* furnished are likely to scare away prospective customers—for *luxuriously* suggests an opulent jungle colander and hardly the comfort and ease that the word *lusciously* does.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### MILITATE, MITIGATE

*Militate* to work against, hinder, fight against. (Its origin related to the word *military*, from *miles*, Latin for soldier.)

*Mitigate* reduce severity of, make milder.

*Mitigate* is sometimes used incorrectly for *militate*.

*Mitigate* should always be followed by the word *against*.

*Mitigate* never should.

### OFFICIAL, OFFICIOUS

*Official* having authoritative standing.

*Officious* going beyond one's official duties and authority; meddling, interfering.

As used and understood by most people the word *officious* has gone beyond the meanings found in our dictionaries. Today it is often used with the added meaning of *disagreeing* and "bony."

### PERSPICACITY, PERSPICUITY

Those who care know that *perspicacity* is the quality of seeing clearly, while *perspicuity* is the quality of being clear.

They also know that *perspicacious* means shrewd, and *perspicuous* means clear.

### PRECIPITATE, PRECIPITOUS

Discriminating users of the language see a distinction between these two words, using only the word *precipitate* for what is hasty or rash (as a precipitate flight or precipitate action), reserving *precipitous* for what is steep or abrupt (a precipitous drop or climb).

In the motion picture *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* the real-estate agent wanted Mrs. Muir not to be "precipitate in making the house." Although the house is atop a precipitous cliff, the word *precipitate* would be better applied to her hasty decision.

A discriminating user of words in the *Times* sports columnist, Arthur Daley, in a recent column he wrote:

The precipitous expansion of the American League to ten clubs a few months ago saw Calvin Griffith switch his base from Washington to the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Mr. Daley joins Mr. Watts and Mr. Prescott on our Roll of Honor.

## PRESCRIBE, PROSCRIBE

*Prescribe* lay down the rules for, order.

*Proscribe* prohibit, forbid, censure, interdict.

*Prescribe* and *proscribe* are almost opposites. If a course of action is prescribed, the blueprint for it is furnished. If a course of action is proscribed, it is forbidden.

Sulla, an early Roman dictator, issued a general order condemning to death all who had fought against him. Such terror struck that a Senator asked Sulla to list those whom he meant. Sulla then had a list posted in a public place on which the names of eighty persons were inscribed. He began the proscriptions—his are which winning leaders in Rome's many civil wars were (crucified) down before (pro) the public the names of those they wanted "rubbed out."

## SPECIE, SPECIES

In preaching a sermon on charity, Sydney Smith (1771-1845), Dean of St. Paul's, frequently repeated that, of all nations, the English were most distinguished for their generosity and for the love of their species. That Sunday, however, the collection was particularly disappointing. Thereupon, Smith remarked that he had made a great mistake, for he should have said that they were distinguished for the love of their specie.

Both *specie* and *specimen* are singular.

*Specie* refers to hard coin. *Species* indicates a distinct class or variety (a strange species of birds, not *specie*).

## TOWTOWS, TORTOISES

*Tortoise*: winding or twisting.

*Tortuous*: painful.

## TURNED, TURBID

*Turbid*: muddy, soiled, clouded.

*Turned*: swollen, inflated, pompous.

An author's writing may be either muddled (a *turbid* script) or pompous (a *turned* style) or both. When water is soiled, muddy, or cloudy it is *turbid*.

The newspaper excerpt obviously contains a typographical error, but it points up the difference in meaning:

Not even the fact that in some homes the new water was slightly *turned* for the first few hours dampened their enthusiasm.

(Typographical error: *turned* for *turbid*.)

## UNEXCEPTIONABLE, UNEXCEPTIONAL

Something that is *unexceptionable* is above reproach, no objection or exception can be taken to it.

*Unexceptional* means not exceptional, ordinary.

Using *unexceptional* for *unexceptionable* may result in a meaning contrary to that intended, as in the following:

I haven't seen the new one (script of radio address), and it's entirely possible that, under proper coaching, it could turn out to be very good, or at least *unexceptional*.

## VENAL, VENIAL

*Venial*: that can be bought or bribed; therefore, necessary, corrupt.

*Venial*: forgivable, excusable, trivial (*venial* sin).

*Venial* is sometimes misused for *venial* as in the following:

He is not much of a hand at characterization either, and is particularly weak when it comes to horses. But these are *venial* literary sins.

And vice versa:

Equipped with a fineg monstache, Robert Chokolov makes the part of a *venial* headmaster seem funny by playing it aggressively.

Associating *venial* with *venial* may help you to remember which is which.

Exercises for this and the next chapter will be found at the end of Chapter 13.



*"After Jones—under 'Experience' could you be a little more specific than just 'Oh, yes!'" \**

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## 13. The Right Word

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THIS is a continuation of the search for the right word begun in the previous chapter, so just to keep your spirits up, we're going to tell you a story that shows how important it sometimes is to know the right word. It happens to be a true story. It happened to a friend of ours whom we'll call Joe. It's a story about a traffic cop who embarrassed himself out of giving a ticket Joe, as he addressed to us later, had started his car a split second before the red light dropped to green. He moved ahead and was just about to shift into high when a police car drew alongside and edged him over to the curb.

Feeling that his car at worst was verbal, Joe decided to brace it out. "What's wrong, officer?" he asked innocently.

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\* Drawing copyright Anthony Magallon

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

"What's wrong?" By this time the other was staring behind his ear. "What's wrong? At that last traffic light you made a *pro* . . . a *pro* . . . You know, a *pro* . . ."  
"A premature start?" suggested Joe helpfully.  
"Yeah, that's the word. And now, get the heck out of here. *PAST!*"

### THESE ARE SIMILAR IN MEANING

#### ACRUE, SCREWMONSTER

Both come from the same Latin root and mean better, but *acru* is reserved for pain or grief, *acrescens* for growth or health work.

Both means are expected to *acru*, and  
debate tomorrow  
(Better, *acrescens*.)

#### AGGRAVATE, ANNOY, IRRITATE

Consolidate the *aggravate* only in the sense of making a case less worse or more severe.

He wanted the workers *aggravate* supporting their anti-social policies which he declared would *aggravate* rather than *aggravate* their plight.

*Aggravate* is the actual and the etymological opposite of *aggravate* (less, light; grave, heavy).

Many use *aggravate* when they really mean annoy, enrage, or irritate.

#### AMBIGUOUS, EQUIVOCAL

Though generally used interchangeably to mean having two or more possible interpretations (*ambiguous*: "going off in two, ambig, directions"); *equivocal*: equal voices, "double talk"), the nice distinction made is that while *ambiguous* is always unintentional, *equivocation* may be purposeful, intended to deceive.

In other words, an *ambiguous* statement is made by someone who doesn't know how to make himself clear, while an *equivocal* statement is made by someone who doesn't want to make himself clear, who wants to use "double talk." Anybody can be *ambiguous*, you have to be clever to be *equivocal*—a diplomat, for instance, an official spokesman, a Delphic Oracle, or the witches in *Macbeth*.

The following sentence shows the distinctiveness of the word *equivocal*:

The majority of them [hotel owners] use an *equivocal* phrase such as "near the ~~main~~ churches," but some of them are more frank.

In the negative *unequivocal* is used almost exclusively. The press is constantly telling us that some official's answer was an *unequivocal* "no."

#### AVENGE, REVENGE

To discriminate users of the language *avenge* refers to a social and *revenge* to a personal emotion. You can *revenge* yourself, but you *avenge* the wrongs of others. *Revenge* contains the idea of retaliation as a selfish act; *avenge*, a just retribution.

#### BRING, TAKE

*Bring*: carry toward the speaker or to his home.  
*Take*: carry away from the speaker.

#### COMMON, MUTUAL

*Mutual*: felt by two or more persons for one another (*mutual admiration or distrust*).

*Common*: shared equally (*common cause, a common enemy*).

According to this distinction a friend shared by two or more people should be a *common* rather than a *mutual* friend, but because of the overuse of the word *common*, people are *mutual* friends. The horns of this dilemma can be side-stopped neatly by just saying "a friend of ours."

#### IMPLY, INFER

*Imply*: suggest indirectly, insinuate.

*Infer*: to draw a conclusion, deduce.

The same distinction holds true for their respective nouns, *implication* and *inference*.

In general the speaker *implies*; the listener *infers*.

Earlier, Manila held Hale in contempt for *infering* that the court was "aiding and abetting" the state because the court clerk's office permitted the designation of Negro to be placed against the names of Negroes selected for the jury panel.

Obviously, the word *implying* should have been used here.

#### MUNDANE, SECULAR

Though these words are sometimes used interchangeably, *mundane* generally refers to the transitory occurrences of the workaday world (*His tastes were purely mundane*).

*Secular* is contrasted with religious (*secular schools, secular buildings*). It often stresses the materialistic as contrasted with the spiritual. *Secularism* is used as a synonym for materialism.

In the negative *unambiguous* is used almost exclusively. The press is constantly telling us that some official's answer was an *unambiguous* "no."

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Farhan, Martin held Holt in contempt for *inferring* that the court was "asking and abetting" the state because the court clerk's office permitted the designation of Negro to be placed against the names of Negroes selected for the jury panel.

Obviously, the word *implying* should have been used here.

# TRANSIENT, SECULAR

Though these words are sometimes used interchangeably, *transient* generally refers to the transitory occurrence of the worldly world (the *transient* glories of *transient*).

*Secular* is contrasted with religious (secular schools, secular holidays). It often stresses the materialistic as contrasted with the spiritual. *Secularism* is used as a synonym for materialism.



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### OBSCURATION, OBSCURANTISM

Of these two, *obscurationism* (sometimes seen as *obscurocratism*) is the much stronger word.

To *obscure* means to darken where there is already some light and thus confuse and bewilder. *Obscuration* is therefore the act of confusing others or the state of being confused oneself.

An *obscurantist* is one who wants to keep things dark (obscure), who strives to prevent enlightenment and is opposed to progress in knowledge and to new ideas and methods. The word is often used to describe one who is both bigoted and reactionary. *Obscurantism* therefore means a bigoted opposition to enlightenment.

In his first prepared statement since his name was dropped by the city school officials, Dr. Stern said that their action was "a retreat from reason in the face of obscurantists who have completely opposed any teaching in this intellectual field."

### PRONE, SUPINE

Though often used interchangeably (incorrectly), these words, as seen from a reclining position, are opposites.

*Prone*: flat on one's face; throw forward (cf. *pro*, forward); lying face downward.

The cause of *prone* for *supine*, its opposite, often causes a writer to place people in a rather contorted position, as in the following excerpt:

In the picture Miss Stanley lies prone  
on a couch in several episodes with her  
eyes fixed upon the ceiling.

*Supine*: lying on one's back, face upward; inactive.

Shall we acquire the realm of effluential resistance by lying  
supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of  
hope, until our enemy shall have bound us hand and foot?

Patrick Henry

### RECOMMEND, REFER

Perhaps you, too, have heard the nurse in a doctor's office ask a new patient, "And who recommended you to Dr. Blank?" The word that should be used is, of course, *referred*, for it is Dr. Blank who was recommended for his skill, not the patient.

The expert is recommended, the person who wishes to consult the expert is referred.

## THESE WORDS CAN FOOL YOU

These slips will show only when you write. When you are

## THE RIGHT WORD

speaking, no one will be able to notice the error.

### AFFECT, EFFECT

*Affect*, always a verb, means to influence.

*Effect*, as a verb, means to bring about as a result.

### CARAT, CARET

*Carat*: unit of weight (for diamonds, gold).

*Caret*: the mark ^, actually the Latin word *cure*, which means it is looking.

### COMPLEMENT(ARY), COMPLIMENT(ARY)

*Complement*: that which fills up or completes, also a full allowance.

*Compliment*: flattering tribute, praise.

An amusing story told by Lt. Col. R. F. Agnew in *The Reader's Digest* may help you to remember the distinction.

A State Selective Service Headquarters in the South was being inspected by a heavy young officer from Washington. Noting that the number of typewriters and desks far exceeded the number of typists, he asked one of the girls, "What is the normal complement of this office?" "Well, sir," she replied, "Ah reckon the most usual compliment is 'Heavy, heavy dude, you're sure handsome-looking' this mornin'!"

### DISCREET, DISCRETE

*Discreet*: careful, prudent.

*Discrete*: separate, distinct, unrelated.

*Discreet* statements are careful and prudent; *discrete* statements have no relation to one another.

### ELICIT, ELICT

*Elicit*: call forth (*elicit* a reply or information).

*Elicit*: illegal, not lawful.

### FLAIR, FLARE

*Flair*: a knack or aptitude.

*Flare* (noun): a flaring light burning a short while, generally used as a signal.

*Flare* (verb): to blaze up.

### INDICT, INDUCE

Though pronounced exactly alike and though they are identical in origin, these words have very different meanings.

To *indict* is to make a formal accusation against. In legal procedure a grand jury *indicts*, draws up the formal charge. The case is then tried before a petit (petty) jury, which may acquit or convict the person against whom the indictment has been brought. *Indict* does not mean to convict—although many people

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

have the mistaken idea that it does.

To *lally* is a literary term meaning to compose, express in words, write. In the spring a young man's fancy sometimes turns to *lallying* verses to his love.

### INTERPELLATION, INTERPOLATION

*Interpellate*: to call for a statement or explanation from a member of a parliamentary government.

Behind the conflict started by *interpellations* today on the government's economic policy is the question whether France can go on toward recovery.

*Interpolate*: insert a remark, throw something into the body of a text.

The walls are papered with copies of scraps the Kennys have written, on which many generations of them have *interpolated* new notes.

### PALATE, PALLET, PALSTER

*Palate*: roof of mouth.

*Pallet*: hard mattress, or bed made of straw (French *paille*, straw).

*Palster*: artist's mixing board.

### PRINCIPAL, PRINCIPLE

*Principal* may be an adjective or a noun. In either case it means chief: the *principal* reason, the *principal* of a school.

The disputed pupil who said, "It's not the school I don't like, it's the *prinsip*!! of the thing!" could spell it either way and still be right.

*Principle* means a rule of conduct (against the *principles* of a man of principle).

## THESE WORDS CAN FOOL YOU TOO

These slips will show only when you say them. When you write them you're sure to be right.

### CONJURE, CONJURER

*Conjure*: practice sorcery, to call up by magic.

A *conjuror* is one who practices this art, often used for a magician or juggler.

*Conjure*: to appeal to solemnly and earnestly, to beseech, to implore.

## THE RIGHT WORD

*Read these aloud now:*

MARGUERITE: The eye is dead, and I must compare him.

I compare thee by Rosaline's bright eyes. . . .  
That in thy likeness thou appear to us!

*Romeo and Juliet, Act II, Scene I*

(Did you pronounce it *con'jure*?)

HAMLET:

What is he whose grief  
Bears such an emphasis? Whose phrase of sorrow  
Compares the wandering stars, and makes them stand  
Like woe-wounded warriors?

*(Hamlet, Act V, Scene I)*

(Did you pronounce it *con'jure*?)

**FORTE, FORTE**

*For*, when pronounced *forteh*, means loud or loudly. In music it is represented by *f*; very loud, *fortissimo*, is represented by *ff*.

*For*, when pronounced *for'ish*, means loud or loudly. In music accompaniment in which one *accels*.

*Read This Aloud Now:*

Her [Katharine Cornell's] *forte* is  
sustained and sensibility rather than  
creating animosity and passion. What  
we look to her for is warmth, not heat.

(Did you say *fort*?)

**SLOUGH, SLOUGH**

*Slough*, when pronounced to rhyme with *rough*, is a noun meaning a marshy, muddy place.

*Slough*, when pronounced to rhyme with *rough*, is both a noun and a verb. As a noun it means an outer skin that is shed. The verb is generally used with *off* and means to cast or throw. In bridge, a losing or useless card is *sloughed*, thrown off, or discarded.

*Slough*, when pronounced to rhyme with *through* and sometimes spelled *slaw* and *slat*, means a bog or swamp and also an inlet or bayou.

*Read This Aloud Now:*

They drew near to a very salty slough. . . . The name of  
the Slough was Despond.

*John Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress*

(Did you rhyme it with *rough*?)

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### TO SAVE YOU EMBARRASSMENT

#### *There Are "Bad" Words*

#### **BATHOS, PATHOS**

*Bathos* is a legitimate and worthy emotion.

*Bathos*, which etymologically means depth, has the meaning of emotionally "steeping off the deep end," descending from the rational to the ridiculous. *Bathos*, therefore, refers to something that is ludicrous, overdone, ridiculous, or sentimental. The adjective is *bathetic*.

#### **CAVALIER (n.), CAVALIERE (adj.)**

A *cavalier* (noun) was originally a horseman, at a time when owning a horse was the hallmark of a knight and warrior. A *cavalier* is therefore a gay, courtly gentleman, one from whom we expect chivalrous (French *cheval*, horse) conduct.

The adjective *cavalier*, however, though it has the same origin and is actually the same word, has come to have an altogether different meaning. A *cavalier* was evidently chivalrous only to others who rode on horseback or to beautiful ladies. Those on foot who were literally beneath him, he treated in a curt (not courtly), offhand, unceremonious manner. To be treated *cavalierly* is, therefore, to be given a superficial "brush-off."

#### **CONSPICUOUS**

*Conspicuous* means outstanding. It is almost always used in an unflattering sense, with a strongly derogatory and disparaging meaning (an *conspicuous* liar, an *conspicuous* blunder).

#### **FULSOME**

This word is frequently misused. It no longer means full or abundant, it now has only an unfavorable meaning. It means excessive or overdone to the point of being in bad taste or disgusting.

Perhaps the political observers will offer some interesting speculations, but it is doubtful that Mr. Average Citizen will find in this film anything other than a warmhearted, false tribute to one of the great men in history.

There is no doubt that the writer wished to praise, not damn, the film he was reviewing.

#### **MEANSRUCIOUS**

*Meansracious* is not a synonym for meritorious. Quite the contrary. Coming from *meretricia*, the Latin word for bad girl, it means tawdry, flashy, showily attractive.

# NOBODINE

*Nobody* has nothing to do with nose. It is a shortened form of *anybody*. It is used to describe an offensive odor. Its synonyms are *smelly*, *stinking*, *foul*, *disgusting*, *offensive*, and *repulsive*. We added *repulsive* (used to refer to an offensive or disgusting smell) only to point out that it has nothing to do with *leph* in *leph*. The adjective for him is *leph*.

# POETASTER

Some writers "damn with faint praise" but some unwittingly find themselves praising with a loud damn when the word they meant is praise backfire. For example:

*Poetaster* is a term of contempt describing a second-rate would-be poet, a mere scribbler of verses. The attachable part *poet* does that to words, it cuts them down in size and quality. A *poetaster* is an inferior critic, one held in contempt. A *pillar* is a false pillar or column that is part of the wall, a perception of it made to look like a column.

*Poetaster* is a word that should not be taken lightly. It was so taken recently by two of our newspapers. An essay entitled, "Now I Sing of Summertime" by one of our leading poets had this subtitle:

One of our leading poetsasters runs  
to defend hot weather—and gets a bad  
case of nostalgia.

Another newspaper making a spread of nationally known literary figures now living in Brooklyn characterized one of them as a "novelist and poetaster."

The faces of the caption writers who thought those up should be a deep shade of red.

## THESE WORDS AREN'T

Sometimes we are embarrassed because we misheard a word by giving it a twist that makes it wrong.

### PRESUMPTUOUS (Wrong!)

The word is *presumptuous* with the "ch" sound clearly heard, not *presumption*. It means unimportantly bold or forward, taking too much for granted.

The verb *presume*, from which it comes, may have two meanings, as the anecdote about Sir James M. Barrie aptly illustrates. One day, he opened the door to a reporter he didn't want to see.

"Mr. Barrie, I presume," said the reporter.

"Yes!" snapped back the usually calm Mr. Barrie and slammed the door closed.

The meaning of *presumptuous* is aptly illustrated in Mr. Barrie's unspoken use of the word.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### PORTENTOUS (Wrong!)

The word is *portentous*, deriving from the noun *portent* (*strange portents, signs or omens*). It means ominous, threatening, presaging something extraordinary and solemn.

It is probably confused with *pretentious*, a word meaning showy.

### UNCIOUS (Wrong!)

The word is *uncious* with the "choo" sound clearly heard. It generally means only in a naive, innocent and gushing manner—the way we sometimes use the word "drinking."

The words *uncertain* and *unclear* (notice the one *u*) come from the same root as *uncious*. Compare the word *poor* from Latin *pauci*.

### UNEQUIVOCALLY (Unequivocally wrong!)

The word is *unequivocally*, from *unequivocal*, already considered on page 559. We list it because it seems to be a fairly common misapprehension.

A similar mistake is made by those who use *undoubtedly*. There's no such word, the word is *undoubtedly*.

### I Does It Make Any Difference to You?

Answer the questions that appear in italics. Answers for these tests will be found on page 345.

1. (a) A large glass of brandy at this time may affect his recovery.  
(b) A large glass of brandy at this time may affect his recovery.  
*Which did the doctor order?*
2. (a) Lie down, Fidel.  
(b) Lay down Fidel.  
*Which should you say to a dog?*
3. (a) I lay in the hammock all afternoon.  
(b) I lay in the hammock all afternoon.  
*Which was more awful?*
4. (a) He adapted the plan.  
(b) He adopted the plan.  
*Which required more ingenuity?*
5. (a) One twin brought Tom home.  
(b) One twin took Tom home.  
*Which twin has the Tom?*
6. (a) Joe flouted his father's authority.  
(b) Joe flouted his father's authority.  
*In which case was Joe trading on his father's reputation?*
7. (a) The judge was disinterested.  
(b) The judge was uninterested.  
*In which case did the lawyers apparently put on a dull show?*

## THE RIGHT WORD

8. (a) On the opening night a gun refused to fire and a premature curtain cut off a character speech.  
(b) On the opening night a gun refused to fire and a premature curtain cut off a character speech.  
*In which sentence did the fire-lighters make a speech about the wrecker?*
9. (a) The townspeople lay down on the highway in an attempt to slow up the advancing enemy tanks.  
(b) The townspeople laid down on the highway in an attempt to slow up the advancing enemy tanks.  
*Which townspeople were more effective in their attempt?*
10. (a) Beside Khrushchev we saw Chiang Kai Shek and Maria Callas.  
(b) Beside Khrushchev we saw Chiang Kai Shek and Maria Callas.  
*Which was an unlikely seating arrangement?*

## II. The Right Word

We are limiting our exercises to sentences taken from newspapers and magazines in which the wrong word appeared. We are giving you a choice.

1. But there is already considerable evidence that animals do talk (speak-spoke, mist-spoke) languages that are sufficient for their purposes.

2. This magazine did not mean to (imply, infer) that Macropolitan makes a profit on its policy holders.

3. [The star] returned to finish the performance to a sympathetic, (folsome, enthusastic) reception.

4. It is said that the original script made the American a freelish, (venal, vernal) fellow, interested only in looting and black-marketing.

5. The handicap of geography alone has (withstand, mitigated) against adequate solutions for the problems of poverty, ignorance and disease.

6. He (depreciated, depreciated) the importance of his work at Scribner's but in the literary world he was held to be the dean of editors and the greatest of his generation.

7. (Beside, Besides) the three police officers whom he accused of negligence, Bergeret pulled up several figures of some prominence.

8. In the main, he regards the press and radio as primarily (complementary, complimentary) rather than competitive.

9. I never realized the (excessivly, exorcinous) and rich variety of this land of almost 160 millions of people.

10. Thirty-three per cent of the respondents (unequivocably,



unquestionably) said "Yes."

11. Mr. Town sang the title role impressively, while the secondary singers and the chorus were also (unexceptional, unexceptionable)

12. The tourist group met the United States Ambassador early in their journey. His only advice to them was not to (flaunt, boast) their wealth.

13. The Experimental Theater's third production of the season was somewhat less (fortuitous, fortanate) than its predecessors.

14. In this store you can buy pickled walnuts, chocolate-covered grasshoppers, rattlesnake meat, rose-petal potpourri and other (exotic, exotric) delicacies.

15. Mrs. Eugene O'Neill's brief part in a long story is incomplete and disjointed, haphazard and largely (disinterested, uninterested) in the theater, which was the center of her husband's life.

16. Perhaps the new Lincoln Theater group, Phoenix, and Stratford can be induced to (participate in, partake of) such an arrangement.

17. He is capable of great patience, as illustrated by his recent feat of staying in silence for two hours when asked a question by Admiral Joy, without any apparent (discomfiture, discordant).

18. Within three weeks of their meeting he had proposed to her, it was very (precipitous, precipitate).

19. Once more they have shown themselves prepared to defy justice and reason, ready to (flout, flout) an arrangement which many had thought unduly favorable to them.

20. Obviously satisfied, he (lay, laid) down his welding torch.



"Don't say 'hark,' say 'hail.'"

---

## 14. How Do You Say It?

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My favorite story concerns my favorite person, James (Moude-Mose) Duran. I had brought him a book of script for that week's program and Jim was reading it over for the first time. One of the lines was, "I shall endeavor to do so, Junior"—only Jim pronounced it "endeover." And I said, "Jim, don't mispronounce that word; it'll lose up the job. Say it right—say 'endeaver' . . ." His eyes bugged out of his head, and he said, "Is that endeaver?" . . . And pointing to the script, he turned to Eddie Jackson and said, "Hey, Jackson! Come, look at endeaver!"

Along the same lines, at a later date, I corrected him again on the pronunciation of some word, and he said, "Go ahead—advocate me and we'll both be out of a job!"  
(Clarry Moore, *Fareye*)

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\* Drawing reproduced courtesy the *Saturday Review*.

MISPRONUNCIATIONS bring laughs, and to a comedian laughs mean security. If anyone else should mispronounce a word he may get a laugh too. But that kind of laugh means insecurity.

Sometimes you know just the word you want to use. Let's say you've decided that the word *achieve* exactly expresses what you mean. What happens? In that split second before your brain telegraphs the word to your vocal cords you wonder whether it should be pronounced *ahvee*, *ahv*, or *shave*; and the word that comes out isn't *achieve* at all but a less forceful and less accurate word that your insecurity has made you compromise on.

The purpose of this chapter, then, is to help you remove another basic fear that may stand in the way of developing a larger and more effective vocabulary, the fear of mispronouncing words.

Obviously we can't do this for all the words that are likely to be mispronounced. To take care of emergencies that may arise, you must get into the habit of using a dictionary to check and determine correct pronunciations. But unless you know how to use a dictionary, the diacritical marks (—, ^, /) will be just as many blank spots before your eyes.

In this chapter therefore we're going to do two things:

1. Take up a number of useful, moderately difficult words that are often mispronounced and

2. Present them to you as a dictionary might so that you will grow accustomed to the habits of a dictionary and so acquire the dictionary habit more easily.

## NEED FOR DIACRITICAL MARKS

It's the vowels that make the most trouble. Any one of them has more sounds than you can shake a stick at. Take the vowel *a* for example. It has a different sound in each of the nine simple words in this very moral sentence. Read it aloud slowly:

a—bat, i—bite, e—live, o—bore, u—bore, i—bit, i—bite, a—bat, o—bore, o—bore, u—bat, i—bite, o—bore, do—good, do—good, oo—out, oo—oil, ay—day, egg—finger, th—thin, th—thin, th—viper, and e which equals a in day, e in model, i in pupil, o in mother, u in circus, or y in martyr.

**MOST WOMEN Do Not Love A "WOLF'S" WORDS OR METHODS.**

A dictionary might fix the vowel sound in each word by writing it like this:

*Most women do not like a Wolf's words or methods*

To read this you need a key. That's why we supply a list of key words on the right-hand page of this chapter and chapters 21 and 22.

Key words are simple words that easily identify a sound for you. We are using these:

1—bite	4—bit	1—hide	6—home	8—kite	10—hole
2—bit	5—bin	1—hit	6—hit	8—hit	10—hood
3—hire			6—bin	8—bin	
2—bir					

and a which equals

a in *day*, e in *model*, i in *pupil*, o in *method*, u in *curse* or y in *martyr*

# SHRWA

*Shrwa* is the name given to the symbol ʔ. In Hebrew the word *shrwa* is the name given to certain diacritical marks placed under letters to indicate the slightest possible vowel sound—the kind of vowel sound that makes the difference between *prayed* (*prāid*) and *parade* (*parāid*) and between *crave* (*kāiv*) and *carve* (*kāiv*). Although there is no etymological connection, you can associate the *shrwa* with the German word *schwach*, meaning weak. For the symbol ʔ indicates a vowel so weak that it is nothing more than a short grunt. The vowels a, e, i, o, u, and y in the words *day*, *model*, *pupil*, *method*, *curse*, and *martyr* have completely lost their identity and have become the same indistinguishable neutral sound for which the symbol ʔ is used.

1—hit, 2—bin, 3—hire, 4—bir, 5—bin, 6—hit, 7—hit, 8—hide, 9—hit, 10—home, 11—bin, 12—hit, 13—bin, 14—bin, 15—hood, 16—hole, 17—bin, 18—bin, 19—bin, 20—bin, 21—bin, 22—bin, 23—bin, 24—bin, 25—bin, 26—bin, 27—bin, 28—bin, 29—bin, 30—bin, 31—bin, 32—bin, 33—bin, 34—bin, 35—bin, 36—bin, 37—bin, 38—bin, 39—bin, 40—bin, 41—bin, 42—bin, 43—bin, 44—bin, 45—bin, 46—bin, 47—bin, 48—bin, 49—bin, 50—bin, 51—bin, 52—bin, 53—bin, 54—bin, 55—bin, 56—bin, 57—bin, 58—bin, 59—bin, 60—bin, 61—bin, 62—bin, 63—bin, 64—bin, 65—bin, 66—bin, 67—bin, 68—bin, 69—bin, 70—bin, 71—bin, 72—bin, 73—bin, 74—bin, 75—bin, 76—bin, 77—bin, 78—bin, 79—bin, 80—bin, 81—bin, 82—bin, 83—bin, 84—bin, 85—bin, 86—bin, 87—bin, 88—bin, 89—bin, 90—bin, 91—bin, 92—bin, 93—bin, 94—bin, 95—bin, 96—bin, 97—bin, 98—bin, 99—bin, 100—bin.

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**WORDS FREQUENTLY MISPRONOUNCED**

To help you get accustomed to using the dictionary we are making dictionary entries for a few representative words.

## OUR OWN DICTIONARY ENTRIES

Anxious, afraid, apprehensive, cowardly, miser, miscreant.

fearful, frightened, postures, postulations, tired, tenuous.

From same post (over) legislation, broadcast.

**P**roves same root and stem (voc, vocat): reveals, speaks, con-  
tains, asks, promotes, aspiration is calling away from one's

a-hat, ä-häy, ä-häyr, ä-häc, e-hen, ä-hä, i-hä, i-häc, e-hot, ö-höga, ö-höva, u-hat, ö-höge, ä-härr, öö-hood, öö-hööt, oo-out, oo-od, yg-yag, yg-finger, th-thu, th-then, th-thing, and a which equals a in ägi, e in mödgi, i in päral, o in mödgi, u in äraa, or y in marra.



**rudimentary** (rŭd'ē-mēn-tē), *a.*, usually formed in the plural, [Lat. *rudimentum*, beginning, from *rudis*, imperfect, rude] 1. a first principle of an art or science, as the rudiments of mathematics; a beginning or first step to any knowledge. 2. that which is yet in an undeveloped state. **rudimentary**, *adj.* From the same root (*rudis*) *rudimentary* (formed from *rudere*, therefore very learned or scholarly), *rudition*.

**mesochor** (mek-sog'gôr) *adj.* [Lat *mesochorus*, *middle*, *between*: sub, under + *chorus*, *middle*, *enclosed*] expressed in a few words, brief, concise.

*Spargangium*: steepen, conche, condensed, laccolic, poly, sum-  
mare, term

*dissever*, diffuse, lengthy, loquacious, prolix, verbose, wordy. From same stem (*cinct*) *cincture* (a girdle or belt), *clack* (in Spanish, a riding belt or strap for a saddle; colloquially a tight grip or an easy task), *proclaim* (to declare), *encompass*.

vagary (və'gārē, və'gīrē), n., pl. *vagaries* [*Ital.* *vagare*, to wander, roam] 1, a rambling excursion, a roving about [studies] 2 an eccentric or unorthodox action or way of doing.

*Disanyus caprice*, crocheted fancy, with white.

From some root (such as *vagan*, *vigilant*, *estranged*, *drift*) (a wandering or straying sense, a departure).

## WHICH DICTIONARY SHALL I USE?

You may wonder why there is no chapter called "How To Use A Dictionary" in this book. There is none because we believe that the best way to learn is by doing. And using a dictionary (or a "reasonable facsimile" thereof) is what you've been doing in this chapter.

Of course we have simplified things a little, but if you've read this far without too much difficulty, you'll find dictionaries, abridged or unabridged, easier to handle. This is a good place to take a quick look of appraisal at dictionaries which you may want to use or own.

Every unabridged dictionary is an abridged encyclopedia.  
Webster's New International (Merriam-Webster). This is

[illegible]

America's best unabridged dictionary, practical, scholarly, authoritative. Because it contains cross-references for words that have the same or related roots, its use can become an exciting adventure for anyone interested in etymological treasure hunts.

**Funk and Wagnalls Standard Dictionary.** This is an unabridged dictionary which has a single alphabetical listing of all important entries except selected foreign phrases, which are placed in a special section. It is scholarly and authoritative, containing a great deal of important and extensive information under many of its entries. It lacks the cross-references and detailed etymological treatment of the *New International Merriam*, it employs a double pronunciation key which is confusing to some users.

**Oxford English Dictionary** (also known as the OED, and also as the *New English Dictionary* or NED). This is a monumental work of scholarship which took thousands of scholars more than seventy years to complete. And it was worth the time and trouble. It is the greatest dictionary ever compiled, designed for scholars and research workers rather than for the casual dictionary user. It contains no pictures, maps, or encyclopedic material. Its distinctive features are a detailed study of the origin and etymology of each word and an abundance of quotations which trace its changes in meaning through the years. There are two shorter versions: a two-volume edition (*The Shorter Oxford*) which retains many of the characteristics of the larger edition, and a one-volume *Concise* edition.

**The New Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** (10 volumes of dictionary, 2 volumes of cyclopedia) is the most handsomely printed and the most literary of the unabridged dictionaries. It is valuable for its illustrative quotations and its extended, essay-like treatment of definitions. The more recent two-

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a—hai, ä—häre, ä—häre, ä—här, e—hæ, ä—hä, i—hi, i—hide, u—hot, ö—höre, ö—höre, u—hut, ä—hüge, ö—höre, öö—hörd, öö—höst, oo—out, oo—oil, ag—sing, egg—finger, th—thaw, th—thaw, th—vision, and e which equals a in day, e in model, i in pen, e in method, u in circus, or y in martyr.



volume edition retains many of the good features of the larger work.

## ABRIDGED OR DESK DICTIONARIES

All College or Desk Dictionaries sell for about five or six dollars, but they are—for value received—worth many times that sum. There is no attempt here to single out any one of these as the best. If you have one of them, it is the best. There are no poor college or desk dictionaries. The only poor dictionary is one that is allowed to rest "unburnished, not to dust it use." All of them are scholarly, thorough, informative, and rewarding when used.

**Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.** Since this is an off-spring of *Merriam-Webster's New International* (Unabridged), it has many of the advantages of the famous parent volume. It comes in a thin India paper edition, which makes it easy to handle. The Collegiate contains comprehensive sections on punctuation, pronunciation, and foreign words. Its synonyms are carefully discriminated.

**Funk and Wagnalls New College Standard Dictionary** (Emphototype Edition). An authoritative, attractive volume, it is up to date in its entries, has more of them than any of the other desk dictionaries, and gives interesting encyclopedic information. Names of persons and places and foreign phrases are listed in the general vocabulary instead of in special sections or in appendices. Its synonyms and antonyms tables are very helpful.

**American College Dictionary (The ACD).** This is a gem-ometer which has many admirable features. The ACD gives current meanings first, archaic and obsolete meanings last. Its pronunciation key—at once the schwa (ə) for unaccented, dieresis vowels—is easy to follow. It is a heavy book but it is

a—bat, ā—bāte, ē—bēte, ī—bīte, o—bōte, ō—bōt, u—būt, i—bīte,  
o—hōt, ō—hōma, ō—hōm, a—bat, u—bāte, ō—bōm, ō—bōod,  
ō—bōot, oo—oat, oo—oat, oo—oat egg—finger, th—thet,  
th—thet, th—thet, and y which equals i in figl, e in modgl,  
i in pupl, e in method, u in crop, or y in stuffy.





## HOW DO YOU SAY IT?

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 6. FRUSTRATE | In a noisy brawl (a) a frib'us or (b) a frub'us?   |
| 7. DEPRAVITY | In a state of corruption and moral degradation known as (a) dipev'ity or (b) diptiv'ity? |
| 8. MALTREAT  | If one is roughly handled or abused, is he (a) maltrib'ed or (b) miltib'ed?              |
| 9. RAVINE    | In a sluggish channel of water (a) a riv'ed or (b) a riv'ed?                             |
| 10. NADIR    | In the opposite of zenith (a) nadir, (b) nadir, or (c) nildir?                           |

### *Are You at Ease with "E's"?*

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 11. ERM         | Are we living in the atomic (a) er'a or (b) et'a?                                      |
| 12. ERMED       | Are acts that are undisciplined and degraded (a) ber'ed or (b) btr'ed?                 |
| 13. ALUMNAE     | Should one refer to girl graduates as (a) aluv'ed or (b) aluv'ed?                      |
| 14. ERMED       | Is an atrocious offense (a) btr'ed, (b) btr'ed, or (c) btr'ed?                         |
| 15. MISCHIEVOUS | In a playful child (a) mischiv'ous or (b) mischiv'ous?                                 |
| 16. ERMED       | When a person is honored in a festive celebration, is he (a) btr'ed or (b) btr'ed?     |
| 17. ERMED       | In a high church dignitary (a) a p'et'ed or (b) a p'et'ed?                             |
| 18. QUARRY      | Does one ask (a) a kv'ed or (b) kv'ed?   |
| 19. QUARRY      | In Hamlet's word for death in his famous soliloquy (a) kv'ed et'ed or (b) kv'ed et'ed? |
| 20. ERM         | If you make a mistake do you (a) er or (b) et?   |

### *Do Your "Ts" Rather Yes?*

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 21. ERMED | Are words written as these are (a) btr'ed or (b) btr'ed? |
|-----------|--|

---

a—bet, b—btr, c—btr, d—btr, e—btr, f—btr, g—btr, h—btr, i—btr, j—btr, k—btr, l—btr, m—btr, n—btr, o—btr, p—btr, q—btr, r—btr, s—btr, t—btr, u—btr, v—btr, w—btr, x—btr, y—btr, z—btr, and a which equals a in btr, e in btr, i in btr, o in btr, u in btr, and a which equals a in btr, e in btr, i in btr, o in btr, u in btr.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

22. <b>ADVERSE</b>	Is a welcome interval of rest (a) a reprieve or (b) a respite?
23. <b>AMBIGUOUS</b>	Is something unethical (a) justifiable or (b) justifiable?
24. <b>AMALGAM</b>	Is a coarse or off-color remark (a) a ribald or (b) a ribald?
25. <b>ANATHA</b>	Are forces that attempt to split the unity of a country (a) dissidents or (b) dissidents?
26. <b>ANOMALY</b>	Is one of the pretentious replies called (a) a denude or (b) a denude?
27. <b>ALUMNI</b>	Should male graduates be called (a) alumnus or (b) alumnus?
28. <b>ASSUMED</b>	Is a fixed payment for services (a) a stipend or (b) a stipend?
29. <b>SEISMIC</b>	Are earthquakes called (a) seismic or (b) seismic disturbances?
30. <b>WITHERED</b>	Is something that is withered and shriveled (a) withered or (b) withered?

## Are You a Good G-Mom?

11. **WHAFFLE:** Is an optical illusion (a) a wiffle, (b) a waffler, or (c) a wiffle?

12. **MALINGERING:** Should a person who lags in things—who doesn't want to get well—be called (a) a maling'ner, (b) a maling'ner, or (c) a maling'ner?

13. **SHIRT:** Is a galloon in the shape of an inverted L called (a) a shirt or (b) a shirt?

14. **GRUDGE:** Are hankies or trifling things (a) grudge or (b) grudge?

15. **ONION:** Is the word sometimes used for a wild, unrestrained celebration (a) onion or (b) onion?

16. **ONION:** Do we call a mass that is between half-full and full (a) onion or (b) onion?

a—ba, i—bia, j—bja, k—bka, e—bea, o—bo, i—bi, i—bia,  
a—ba, o—boa, i—bia, e—be, u—bu, i—bia, do—boa,  
do—bia, wa—wa, co—co, ag—ag, ag—ag, th—th,  
th—th, th—th, and e which equals a in ag, e as model,  
e as pupil, e as marked, u as away, o as master.

*And What About CH?*

17. **LOBBY:** Is a secret hiding place (a) a lach, (b) a laché, or (c) a lach?
18. **CONCERNED:** Should one who treats minor ailments of the feet be called (a) a kody'edat, (b) a chóp'edat, or (c) shóp'edat?
19. **SCISM:** Is a split or cleavage in an organization (a) a skism, (b) a scism, or (c) a skism?
40. **ARCHIVE:** Are public records or the depository in which they are kept referred to as (a) arkhiv or (b) arkiv?
41. **CHAMELEON:** Is the little lizard-like animal that can adapt its color to its surroundings (a) a sham'leon or (b) a kam'leon?
42. **MACHINATIONS:** Are the crafty schemings of evil-doers called machin'shans, (b) machishans, or (c) makushans?
43. **CHICANERY:** Is trickery or underhandedness referred to as (a) shik'norn or (b) shak'yan?
44. **ARCHIPELAGO:** Does a group of oceanic islands form (a) an archipe'lago or (b) an iripe'lago?
45. **PENCHANT:** Is a strong inclination or a partiality (a) a pen'shan or (b) a per'shan?
46. **CHARLATAN:** Should we call a faker (a) a thár'tan or a (b) char'tan?

*Do You Keep Your Accents on Straight?*

47. **THREATENING:** Is an opponent who is to be feared or divided (a) thér'madál or (b) threud'vle?
48. **NONCOMMITANT:** In time of war is a civilian (a) a non-kam'burant or (b) a nonkom'burant?

a—hai, é—hine, é—hine, a—hai, a—hai, é—hai, u—hai, u—hine,  
o—hot, é—hine, é—hine, u—hai, é—hine, é—hine, é—hine,  
é—hine, é—hine, é—hine, é—hine, é—hine, é—hine, é—hine,  
é—hine, é—hine, é—hine, and a which equals a in dupl, a in modél,  
i in papé, o in mépé, u in élégé, or y in éurte.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

48. **DELIRIOUS:** Is something that is sad or mournful (a) *delirious* or (b) *délirious*?
49. **OMNIPOTENT:** Is one who is all-powered (a) *omnipotent* or (b) *omnipétant*?
50. **INTERMINE:** Is a civil strife deadly to both sides referred to as (a) *in ter mine* or (b) *inter'mine*?
51. **INTEGRAL:** Is that which is essential to a plan (a) an *integral*, (b) an *int'gral*, or (c) an *integral* part of it?
52. **RECONSTRUCT:** If you played with someone do you (a) *reconstruct* or (b) *reconstruct* with him?
53. **CLAUDESTRINE:** Is a secret appointment (a) *clau'destrin* or (b) *klaudertrine*?
54. **ACUTIOUS:** Should one's keenness or acuteness of mind be called (a) *ak'itious* or (b) *ak'itious*?

Of all language activities pronunciation is probably the most vulnerable to change. Hundreds of pronunciations that were considered wrong ten or fifteen years ago are now acceptable.

A word suddenly leaps into prominence. An atom bomb is dropped and thousands of newsmen rush to their microphones and announce to their listening world that an atomic war has been ushered in. But most of them, not having had time to check their dictionaries, pronounce the word *dra*. Since then, many important and prominent people have adopted this pronunciation of the word. Yet of the five desk dictionaries—and dictionaries have listening posts everywhere and are very sensitive to pronunciation changes—only one has so far recorded *dra* as a variant pronunciation. The others have held out valiantly for *dra* or *dra*.

Perhaps they've done so because they know what happened at the farewell dinner given to an important educational official in one of our large cities. The M. C., wishing to be gracious and flattering to the guest of honor, began with an introductory statement about his long period of service. What his audience heard was, "With the retirement of Superintendent Seandoo, an educational error has come to an end!"

Don't let it happen to you!





How many *f*'s are there in *conscience*? *f* *f*

## 15. Double Trouble

ONE NIGHT when Joel Chandler Harris, creator of Uncle Remus, was at his editorial desk, an old-time reporter looked over and asked, "Say, Joel, how do you spell graphic? With one *f* or two *f*'s?"

"Well," replied Harris in his gentle drawl, "if you're going to use any *f*'s, you might just as well go the limit."

That's the way many of our friends feel—some of them writers—when it comes to the question of double or single consonants. They just throw up their hands and say, "It doesn't make sense. Why enter in *indifferent* and two in *irresponsible*? Why one *n* in *enormous* and *enormulate* and two in *enervate* and *insatiable*? Why two *f*'s in *conscientious* and only one in *beneficial*? No—I tell you there's no rhyme or reason for it."

But they're wrong. There is reason—a sound reason, and though there's no rhyme there's rhythm. Rhythm has something to do with doubling the consonant. We'll make that

\* Drawing reproduced courtesy Lock Magazine.

clear a little later on, but first we'll tell you the true story of how one man's knowing his double consonants and knowing how to use a dictionary saved him a fine.

On October 13, 1945, a citizen of Durham, North Carolina, was brought before Judge Wilson of Traffic Court for parking his car on a restricted street right in front of a sign forbidding parking. But instead of pleading guilty, the defendant protested that he was not extracting cars from underneath the street.

This was not a facetious reply, for when the sign was brought in as evidence, the defendant triumphantly pointed out that it read "No Stopping" and *stopping*, he was able to prove with the help of an unbridged dictionary (p. 2485, Webster's *New International*), means "extracting cars from a stop, or loosely, underground."

"Your honor," said the defendant, "I am a law-abiding citizen. When I saw that sign I noted it carefully. And being a law-abiding citizen, I said to myself, 'Well, whatever you do, don't extract any one—it's against the law.' Judge, I didn't do and stopping—and I move the case be dismissed."

The judge decided that the defendant had lived up to the letter of the law—the single letter—and the case was dismissed.

But we can't dismiss so easily the reason for single and double letters in spelling. We're going to try to chase the bogshoo of so many writers by beginning an enveloping operation and attacking the problem from these angles.

## DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Our first approach is to go back to a technique we have already used in making long words easy—breaking them into recognizable units and then putting them together again. Spelling then becomes a simple problem in arithmetic; it becomes as easy as adding 1 and 1 and getting 2, or adding 1 and 0 and getting 1.

Let's see how it applies in actual cases. Words beginning with *dis* often cause trouble. Here are a dozen words. Should they have one *r* or two *r*'s? You tell us. We'll divide them for you. You add up the *r*'s:

*dis* + appoint  
*dis* + order  
*dis* + satisfied

*dis* + service  
*dis* + solution  
*dis* + ease

dis + vent

dis + ventlar

dis + vision

dis + appearance

dis + aster

dis + section

dis + integrate.

If you have ever mispelled any of these words, hang your head in shame, because it means you weren't able to perform the simple arithmetical operation of  $1 + 0 = 1$  or  $1 + 1 = 2$ .

And it works just as well with other prefixes. If a prefix ends in a consonant and the word to which it is attached begins with the same consonant then the result is a doubled consonant:

mis + spell

mis + sumary

mis + sumable

but mis + apply

but mis + sumerous

but mis + sumate (as in sumate).

When the first letter of the root is one that the last letter of the prefix must blend with, we also get a double consonant:

in + mobile

in + legible

in + relevant

con + lateral

con + vision

ad + commodate

sub + press

sub + seed

sym + metrical

= immobile

= illegible

= irrelevant

= collateral

= confusion

= accommodate

= suppress

= seed

= symmetrical.

It is now easy to see that you won't get a double consonant if the prefix ends in a vowel:

re + commend

pro + fuse

pro + portion

de + stowed (dried up).

de + press

a + cross

so + portion

Ah, but you say, "My trouble is not at the beginning of words, it's in the middle of words. Take the word *expensive*, for example. I know it has a double n, but why?"

## THE ACCENT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Let's look carefully at these two columns of words:

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
<u>pr</u> ofit	re <u>pr</u> et
<u>qu</u> arrel	con <u>tr</u> ol
<u>ma</u> ter	pre <u>fer</u> e
wo <u>r</u> ship	be <u>g</u> in
hap <u>p</u> en	re <u>b</u> el
cal <u>l</u> er	con <u>so</u> l

The two columns are alike in every respect but one. The words in column A end in one consonant, so do the words in column B. The words in column A have a single vowel before the final consonant (profit, quarrel, etc.); so have the words in column B (repret, control, etc.). But whereas those in column A are accented on the first syllable, the words in column B are accented on the second syllable, and that makes all the difference!

The doubling of the consonant depends on the rhythm of the word; it depends on where the accent falls. Only when the accent falls on the syllable containing the single consonant that we've worried about is the consonant doubled as a rule. Let's see how it works. Add *ing* to each word in column A and nothing happens (profiting, quarreling, etc.). But add *ing* to each word in column B and the consonant is doubled (repreting, controlling, etc.):

Column A	Column B
<u>pr</u> ofiting	re <u>pr</u> et <u>ing</u>
<u>qu</u> arreling	con <u>tr</u> ol <u>ing</u>
<u>ma</u> ter <u>ing</u>	pre <u>fer</u> ring
wo <u>r</u> shiping	be <u>g</u> inning
hap <u>p</u> ening	re <u>b</u> elling
cal <u>l</u> ing	con <u>so</u> l <u>ing</u>

Note that the consonant is doubled only when the accent falls on the syllable containing it. If the accent shifts from it, the consonant is not doubled:

<u>re</u> ference	but	re <u>fer</u> ring
pre <u>fer</u> able	but	pre <u>fer</u> ring
re <u>fer</u> ence	and	con <u>so</u> ling
occu <u>rr</u> ence		

No matter how many syllables the word has, the rule of accent works the same way:

un <u>der</u> val <u>ed</u>	mar <u>vel</u> ous <u>ly</u> able
bag <u>ged</u>	un <u>for</u> get <u>table</u>
im <u>por</u> tant	con <u>spic</u> u <u>ous</u>
col <u>leg</u> e <u>par</u> ting	non <u>con</u> spic <u>u</u> ous

British writers and dictionaries such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* do not follow this rule strictly but prefer the double consonant except in a few words like *beamed* and *caroled*. You can usually recognize a word printed in England by the double *l* and double *p* spellings of words like *marvelous*, *travelled*, *wooden*, and *worthipped*. Some American writers occasionally follow this practice. Therefore, "to accommodate the English-speaking public," Webster's *New International Dictionary* gives both spellings but indicates its preference by putting the spelling with the single consonant first. Other American dictionaries follow the lead of Webster's American edition and publishers prefer to streamline spelling and apply the rule strictly. Therefore we are asking you to conform with American practice by applying the rule strictly also in the exercises at the end of this chapter, after you have taken into account the following cautionary notes.

### Caution

1. This rule, good as it is, must not be applied indiscriminately. It operates only for words that follow the pattern *one final consonant, preceded by one vowel*.

2. The rule operates only when the syllable that is added begins with a vowel (*ing*, *ed*, *age*, etc.):

con <u>spic</u> u <u>ous</u> ing	but	con <u>spic</u> u <u>ous</u> ment
con <u>spic</u> u <u>ous</u> ing	but	con <u>spic</u> u <u>ous</u> ment
prof <u>ic</u> u <u>ous</u> ing	but	prof <u>ic</u> u <u>ous</u> ment

3. The consonant is doubled in words like those on the left in 2, above, when the syllable before the added syllable is accented.

4. Like most rules of language, this rule does have a few exceptions. Here are the most noteworthy:

a. *chaperoned*, one *e* always

b. *conferable*, *inferable*, *referable*, *transferable*, but note *deferable* and *deferable*.

c. *essence* *essen*, *crystalline*, *crystalline*, *essence* (from *ex-ess*), *essence* *essence*. These are, however, not true exceptions because the Latin words from which they are derived has two *ss*'s. For the same reason, *tranquil* *ly* is preferred to *tranquil* *ly*, but *tranquil* (formed from *tran* *quil*) and *tranquil* *ly* or are preferred to *tran* *quill* and *tran* *quill* *ly* or.

d. *put* *ing* and *put* *ry*, but *put* *ess* and *put* *ly*.

e. A few words ending in *g*, like *hambag*, double the *g*, as in *hambagged*, to show that the *g* is not to be pronounced as a *j*. Moreover, there is an additional stress on the last syllable. *hambag*.

f. Words derived from *kidnap* may have either one or two *p*'s even in American usage, because the last syllable may also be stressed: *kidnap*. So, the *New York Times*, a strict observer of the rule, prefers *kidnapped* and *kidnapper*. The English prefer the double *p* as in the title of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Kidnapped*.

## MONOSYLLABLES

Words of one syllable like *stop* and *hop* have the same structure as the words we have discussed. They end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel. It is obvious that if we apply our rule to a word of only one syllable the consonant will always be doubled when you add *ing*, *age*, or *ness*. *Stop*, therefore, becomes *stopping*, not *stoping*; and *hop* becomes *hopping*, not *hoping*. Neglecting to double the consonant can sometimes cause trouble. A literary critic found this out when he read his column one morning and discovered that the gripping novel he had reviewed had "griped" him awfully. Then there's the old, old one about a small-town editor who was very much embarrassed when his newspaper, writing a laudatory column about one of the town's leading citizens, called him a "bottle-scarred veteran." To make amends the editor wrote a correction for the next morning's edition. Unfortunately the typesetter got these first with "a bottle-scarred veteran."

## A SOUND RULE

As we have seen a double consonant has a tendency to shorten the preceding vowel sound (*hoping*,—*hopping*, *ding*

—daxing). Therefore, where we cannot apply our rule, the sound or the pronunciation of the word may help us. For example, how many *r*'s are there in *accr* ? *son* ? Since we pronounce the second syllable *son*, we can be pretty sure there's only one *r*. Two *r*'s would make the word rhyme with *possi*on. This is a very crude test and should be used with circumspection.

However, there's another troublesome spelling situation in which the sound and a little detective work can help us.

## WHICH VOWEL IS IT?

Often we are puzzled over the spelling of a word because a particular vowel has lost its identity. Words like *sed* ? *irr*, *fr* ? *low*, *med* ? *cise*, *hyper* ? *ty* offer such a problem. The unknown letters all represent the same indeterminate vowel sound—the schwa (ə). How do we solve the mystery of the disguised vowel? It's easy. We *smoke* it out. We find a related shorter or longer word in which the vowel comes out in the open because it is in an accented syllable.

See how it works by supplying the unmasked vowel. Answers to A and B will be found on page 366.

### A

Problem Word	Clue Word	Unmasked Vowel
1. <i>accr</i> ? <i>son</i>	<i>accr</i> ? <i>son</i>	_____
2. <i>affir</i> ? <i>tion</i>	<i>affir</i> ? <i>tion</i>	_____
3. <i>auth</i> ? <i>city</i>	<i>auth</i> ? <i>city</i>	_____
4. <i>conserv</i> ? <i>tion</i>	<i>conserv</i> ? <i>tion</i>	_____
5. <i>defin</i> ? <i>tion</i>	<i>defin</i> ? <i>tion</i>	_____
6. <i>extr</i> ? <i>ac</i>	<i>extr</i> ? <i>ac</i>	_____
7. <i>emph</i> ? <i>tic</i>	<i>emph</i> ? <i>tic</i>	_____
8. <i>child</i> ? <i>ness</i>	<i>child</i> ? <i>ness</i>	_____
9. <i>fr</i> ? <i>ty</i>	<i>fr</i> ? <i>ty</i>	_____
10. <i>gram</i> ? <i>ical</i>	<i>gram</i> ? <i>ical</i>	_____
11. <i>hyper</i> ? <i>ical</i>	<i>hyper</i> ? <i>ical</i>	_____
12. <i>med</i> ? <i>cine</i>	<i>med</i> ? <i>cine</i>	_____
13. <i>mar</i> ? <i>ious</i>	<i>mar</i> ? <i>ious</i>	_____
14. <i>ment</i> ? <i>ary</i>	<i>ment</i> ? <i>ary</i>	_____
15. <i>narr</i> ? <i>ive</i>	<i>narr</i> ? <i>ive</i>	_____
16. <i>not</i> ? <i>ious</i>	<i>not</i> ? <i>ious</i>	_____
17. <i>nat</i> ? <i>ive</i>	<i>nat</i> ? <i>ive</i>	_____
18. <i>r</i> ? <i>icious</i>	<i>r</i> ? <i>icious</i>	_____
19. <i>sep</i> ? <i>ative</i>	<i>sep</i> ? <i>ative</i>	_____
20. <i>sed</i> ? <i>in</i>	<i>sed</i> ? <i>in</i>	_____

SINGLE OR DOUBLE?

Answers will be found on page 166.

	B	
P	1. chase ? ing	r/s 16. dele ? ing
	2. converse ? ing	17. differ ? ing
	3. echo ? ing	18. occur ? once
	4. carve ? once	19. occur ? ing
	5. mode ? ing	20. off's ? ing
	6. parade ? ing	21. profile ? ed
	7. petio ? ing	22. rule ? on
	8. strive ? ed	23. rule ? al
	9. unrequi ? ed	r/s 24. acqui ? al
	10. unrequi ? ed	25. acqui ? ing
n's	11. back's ? ing	26. ally's ? ment
	12. belloo ? ing	27. ally ? ing
	13. happen ? ing	28. balk's ? ing
	14. pardo ? ing	29. benefit ? ing
	15. trips ? ing	30. profit ? able



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### III. WORDS ON PARADE

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*"Panic" might be the very word you're groping for!"*

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## 16. Do You Read the Sports Page?

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DON'T GO away. This isn't a chapter about technical terms used in sports. It's about words most sports fans read and never use!

They don't use the words because their eyes are closed to everything but the exciting details of the game they're reading about. More words, no matter how difficult or unusual, can't slow up the action for them or dim the achievements of their heroes.

They go right past words like **BELLWETHER**, **CUNCTATOR**, **DEBACLE**, **FLACCID**, **HEATUS**, **HOLOCAUST**, **IMPUGNANT**, **JUGGERNAUT**, **LACHRYMATE**, **ORISQUES**, **PALADIN**, **PANTHEON**, **PARADOX**, **PRESTIGIATION**, **PURSUANT**, **PULLULATING**, **PURLESTON**, **RATIOCIATION**, and **TRANSPOSTING**.

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\*Drawing reproduced courtesy Collier's.

We tried out twenty such sports words on a high school class of thirty-five bright seniors, and we opened their eyes wide—in amazement and disbelief. "I never found words like that in the sports pages," one pupil said. To which another, wiser student added, "But from now on you will."

And from now on we think you will too. If you want to enrich and increase your store of words pleasantly and enjoyably, you can do a lot worse than read the sports pages of your newspaper. Some of the best and certainly the most picturesque writing is being done day after day on the sports pages of our newspapers.

The style may occasionally be a bit jaunty and a little flashy. And why not? Doing day after day with similar events and recurring situations, sports writers reach out for new ways of making their stories colorful and engaging. If in reaching for words that are somewhat different they occasionally overreach themselves—well, it's all done in good fun.

## ALL IN SPORT

Even though some of the athletes whose names appear in the newspaper and magazine items quoted below are no longer active, we have nevertheless used the clippings from our long and active file for two reasons. In the first place, the choice of words in these clippings is still the best we have encountered for the particular words, and in the second place, we thought that it might give you a nostalgic thrill to see the names of some athletic heroes of the past. After all, to take only one example, the Brooklyn Dodgers are part of our folklore. That's why we retain the present tense—now for them.

When in midseason the Brooklyn Dodgers—leading the league—lose two games by the lopsided scores of 12-4 and 9-3 to a last-place team, the sports writer for a New York newspaper has to reach out. Stock words won't do. To Brooklyn fans this isn't just a defeat or a rout or even a catastrophe. So he writes: "There were 25,594 eye witnesses to this double debacle," and the gloom that has settled over Flatbush lifts a little.

Nor is the snapping of a winning streak, when it belongs to the Dodgers, something that can be passed over lightly. No, indeed. "Obsequies" are held for the death of that Dodger winning streak before a Chicago crowd of 39,915,

only a small minority of whom could be classed as mourners."

A pair of game-winning home runs becomes "a couple of lethal blows," but useless homers, punched out after the game has already been won, are "merely legals." "

A particular infielder who rarely makes any errors is referred to as the "usually impeccable Luis Aparicio." When a former hero erred, we were told that "that paragon of outfield perfection, joining Joe DiMaggio, played it [a line drive] like a gyro."

A useless lining sandwiched between two linings when runs were plentiful becomes "a blinter in the Giants' reproduction department," and a puny batting effort is a "farcical tap to the mound."

The 1947 World Series, with the opposing teams separated by the Brooklyn Bridge, was described as a "transpositive feud," while the frenzied master-mindings of the rival managers in the sixth game of that series was characterized as "the longest and most interperate orgy of reticestation."

## OTHER SPORTS

Goal posts that are not torn down after a smashing Notre-Dame victory over Army remain "levellets." A week later we read that "the cadets came back from the Notre Dame holocaust with their best performance of the year." The forward-passing skill of a professional football player is nothing more or less than "the baffling *avantihoortness* of Sid Luckman, the master magician." And on a New Year's Day, Fritz Crisler's Michigan steamroller became "his juggernaut," which "shocked the bewhatsits out of Southern California by the tidy little count of 49 to 0."

In basketball, sports writers were practically unanimous in referring to the old New York University powerhouse as "Howard Cann's pulsant performance," and to mighty Kentucky as "personia palatide of the Southeastern Conference." Duke, another visiting team, out in front in its own section of the country, was referred to as "one of the bellwethers of the Southern Conference."

Outlying boxing arenas are called *parlinas*, a baseball player who is obviously staying for time in connection, the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown a "baseball's pantheon," and a

headline for a story about the Kentucky Derby tells us that:

## All Louisville Is Pullulating\*

And that's a good place to stop!

Except to add that the next day, making good the prophecy of the student who said, "But from now on you will," another student in our bright senior class brought in one sports column (Dan Daniel in *New York World-Telegram*) that contained the words *proscriptum*, *legislaque*, *protrax*, *ubiquitous*, *forensic*, and *peroration*.

## ARE YOU A GOOD SPORT?

What is your batting average with these words we have taken from the sports pages? Here they are in a test for you. You ought to do well because the context is still fresh in your mind and because, if it isn't, you can go back and refresh your mind easily. Using the test to figure out the meanings will make you use your powers of recombination.

If you get all twenty right you are impeccable; if you get ten or fewer right you are a rye. To consider yourself a big-league you should get at least fifteen right.

### I. Twenty Sports Words

Answers will be found on page 366

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>belweather</i>    | (a) high scorer (b) veteran team (c) leader (d) unpredictable performer      |
| 2. <i>conscientious</i> | (a) obstinate (b) delaying (c) indifferent (d) domineering                   |
| 3. <i>debacle</i>       | (a) overwhelming disaster (b) error (c) misbeg (d) encounter                 |
| 4. <i>facile</i>        | (a) strong (b) flabby (c) slow (d) bounding                                  |
| 5. <i>surcease</i>      | (a) high spot (b) drawback (c) gap (d) total loss                            |
| 6. <i>holocaust</i>     | (a) disappointment (b) bruising battle (c) contest (d) wholesale destruction |
| 7. <i>improcrant</i>    | (a) well-groomed (b) taciturn (c) graceful (d) usually dependable            |
| 8. <i>unshakable</i>    | (a) uprooted (b) uprooted (c) unharmed (d) firmly rooted                     |

\* Louisville, May 3.—Early week has flowed into the sixth day beauty of the seventh phase and Louisville is pullulating with reasons why this horse race preview is specially researched by my other American sporting readers with the possible exception of a Glad Street fan club.

## DO YOU READ THE SPORTS PAGE?

9. <i>apparent</i>	(a) average (b) irresistible force (c) lucky team (d) whip
10. <i>knapsack</i>	(a) something for good measure (b) window dressing (c) faculty (d) cloth for dusting
11. <i>obsequies</i>	(a) apologies (b) consequences (c) funeral rites (d) celebration
12. <i>paladin</i>	(a) representative (b) aggregation (c) champion (d) knightly champion
13. <i>parish</i>	(a) temple (b) home town (c) place of origin (d) museum
14. <i>paragon</i>	(a) side show (b) veteran (c) student (d) model of excellence
15. <i>perfidious</i>	(a) counter-claiming (b) slight-of-hand (c) skillful diagnosis (d) speed
16. <i>praiseworthy</i>	(a) skilled (b) mighty (c) dependable (d) highly-regarded
17. <i>pellucid</i>	(a) apologizing (b) shouting (c) teasing (d) sprawling
18. <i>perfidious</i>	(a) places for tryouts (b) exhibits (c) money-makers (d) handbooks
19. <i>perfidious</i>	(a) second guessing (b) defying tactics (c) slow thinking (d) reasoning
20. <i>perfidious</i>	(a) traditional (b) across-the-bridge (c) everlasting (d) deadly

## TAKING INVENTORY

Now it's time to take inventory again, for here in this chapter we are once more going through the cycle of the practical and rare way of increasing your vocabulary. As we see it, there are three steps.

**STEP 1.** You meet the word. You are introduced to it in context and get to know it. You try to slot it up by stopping to take in the whole idea of which it is the unknown quantity. The words that accompany it, the general drift give you a vague or sometimes a pretty good notion of what it means. But if you don't meet the word frequently thereafter, it won't do you much good unless you take

**STEP 2.** You look the word up in a dictionary, selecting, from the several meanings given, the one that fits best into the context in which you found it. In this way you get an accurate definition and you learn the word, but you won't remember it unless you take

**STEP 3.** You must try to fix the word, whenever possible, by some logical association: origin, use, the story behind it, a fixed phrase. We are going to take this third step right now for a few of these words to show you once again how, when you fix a word, you learn much more than just the word itself.

### THE THIRD STEP

#### **SELFWEATHER:**

The bell rings in this word, because it is tied around the neck of the weather or male sheep that leads the flock. Self-weather is therefore often used to mean a leader.

#### **CONJUNCTIOUS:**

This isn't a very useful word except to amuse your friends with, but if you're interested look at the entry under *Fabian Policy* on page 133. The word we usually use for one who employs delaying tactics is *dilatory*.

#### **HOLocaust:**

This word is made up of two Greek roots: *holo*, whole, entire, and *kaust*, burnt. Originally, a holocaust was a whole burnt offering or sacrifice. Then it came to mean a wholesale destruction, especially by fire. From the combining form *holo*, we get the word *holograph*, a document written entirely in the handwriting of the author. From *kaust* we get *caustic* (a caustic remark is one that sears) and *cauterize*, to treat a wound by burning tissue through the use of heat or chemical caustics.

#### **Juggernaut:**

Juggernaut is the name of the Hindu god whose idol is dragged in religious procession on an enormous car. The stories that vast numbers of devotees have thrown themselves in the path of the advancing car and been crushed under its wheels are untrue, but when the huge car pushes relentlessly forward through narrow streets crowded with frenzied worshippers, accidents can happen. The word juggernaut is frequently used today to describe an irresistible, ruthless force or machine that destroys everything that gets in its way. Some writers apply the word juggernaut to something unusually large or massive. In the February 28, 1961 issue of

## DO YOU READ THE SPORTS PAGE?

Look, John Gunther effectively combined the two notions of the word, "World War II began a week later, when the Nazi legions crashed into Poland, now helpless and caught between two fires. So was set in ugly motion a juggernaut that, before it finally rolled to a stop, cost the world at least 30 million lives."

### LAPLAPPE

This is a word that was born in the United States among the Creole population of Louisiana. Its original meaning is seen in this sentence written by a traveler in 1893 in *Harper's Magazine*:

"Take that for a laplappe [pronounced lah-yap]," says a roustabout in New Orleans as he folds a pretty calendar into the bundle of stationery you have purchased.

Laplappe is, therefore, a trifling present given when a purchase is made. It is also used in the sense of something given for good measure or something extra.

### PALADIN

This word is related to the word *palace*. It is the name specifically given to the twelve famous warriors of Charlemagne's court but is often applied to the Knights of the Round Table as well. Today the word is used for a noble defender of the right, or a crowned champion.

## THE IDEAL WAY

And so the ideal and practical way to increase your vocabulary is to be on the lookout for new words in your reading, to get their meaning from the context, to check them in a dictionary, and, whenever possible, to fix them by associations that enrich the words and make you remember them.

### II. Some More Sports Words

(In phrases from various newspapers)

Answers for these tests will be found on page 166

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. affluence old age     | (a) wealthy (b) doddering (c) wield-<br>ing power (d) healthy        |
| 2. cellow American youth | (a) unlikable (b) inexperienced<br>(c) superficial (d) unpretentious |
| 3. expounded for battle  | (a) eager (b) handicapped (c) rehu-                                  |



Look, John Gunther effectively combined the two notions of the word, "World War II began a week later, when the Nazi legions crashed into Poland, now helpless and caught between two fires. So war set in ugly motion a juggernaut that, before it finally rolled to a stop, cost the world at least 20 million lives."

#### LAPISSE:

This is a word that was born in the United States among the Creole population of Louisiana. Its original meaning is seen in this sentence written by a traveler in 1893 in *Harper's Magazine*:

"Take that for a lapisse [pronounced lay-yay]," says a storekeeper in New Orleans as he folds a pretty calendar into the bundle of stationery you have purchased.

Lapisspe is, therefore, a trifling present given when a purchase is made. It is also used in the sense of something given for good measure or something extra.

#### PALADIN:

This word is related to the word *palace*. It is the name specifically given to the twelve famous warriors of Charlemagne's court but is often applied to the Knights of the Round Table as well. Today the word is used for a noble defender of the right, or a renowned champion.

## THE IDEAL WAY

And so the ideal and practical way to increase your vocabulary is to be on the lookout for new words in your reading, to get their meaning from the context, to check them in a dictionary, and, whenever possible, to fix them by associations that enrich the words and make you remember them.

### II. Some More Sports Words

(In phrases from various newspapers)

Answers for these tests will be found on page 166.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. oftens old age          | (a) wealthy (b) doddering (c) wielding power (d) healthy       |
| 2. restless American youth | (a) undividing (b) inexperienced (c) superficial (d) impetuous |
| 3. experienced for battle  | (a) eager (b) handicapped (c) valor-                           |

4. proving beyond *doubt* (a) subtle (b) certainly (c) belief (d) contradiction
5. making a *deliberate* *reticence* (a) badly timed (b) graceful and light-hearted (c) selected (d) rapid
6. *slightly* *Elmy* *Fair* (a) judge (b) waist (c) wealthy (d) hard-working
7. *staunchly* *overplaying* (a) carefully (b) good-naturedly (c) foolishly (d) heartily
8. wild *huzzas* of joy (a) celebrations (b) meals (c) examinations (d) hand-clappings
9. the *ignominious* *imperturbable* *the* *struggle* (a) fearless (b) innocent (c) unswerving (d) calm
10. *scattering* *improvements* *at* *him* (a) queries (b) unsatisfactory answers (c) warnings (d) instructions
11. the *indivisible* *champion* (a) confident (b) unapproachable (c) undefeated (d) unknown
12. *insouciant* *bracing* *plea* (a) undrained (b) transparent (c) solid (d) made of thin layers
13. with *extreme* *largesse* (a) nobility (b) courtesy (c) generosity (d) auction
14. *palpably* *unfair* (a) unknowingly (b) obviously (c) extremely (d) hardly
15. the *ghastly* *details* (a) frenzied (b) gruesome (c) psychological (d) secret
16. *ramifications* *of* *the* *situation* (a) consequences (b) lessons (c) branchings-out (d) dangers
17. the *redoubtable* *Whitey* *Ford* (a) formidable (b) plucky (c) confident (d) unconquerable
18. *staunch* *repugnance* *of* *publicity* (a) indifference (b) condemnation (c) regard (d) abhorrence
19. somewhat *reticent* *in* *manner* (a) careful (b) solemn (c) reserved (d) ambiguous
20. *encounter* *quick* *retribution* (a) reward (b) appreciation (c) resistance (d) punishment
21. a *desultory* . . . *so* *spacious* (a) indignant (b) speedy (c) false (d) abundant
22. the *revolve* *left-hander* (a) set (b) lefts (c) erratic (d) smooth
23. the *tenacity* *to* *approach* *him* (a) kindness (b) unwillingness (c) timidity (d) boldness
24. the *obsequious* *Mr.* *Pickens* (a) beguiling (b) appearing everywhere (c) stout (d) slighted
25. *quoting* *him* *verbatim* (a) mockingly (b) word for word (c) though forbidden (d) unofficially

III. *Genuine Sports Words*

For sports aficionados who may have been disappointed because the words of this chapter were not about sports, here's a consolation round. Can you match the words on the left with the sports they belong to?

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. chancery   | a. baseball            |
| 2. cross      | b. bowling             |
| 3. leave      | c. croquet             |
| 4. let        | d. football            |
| 5. ringer     | e. golf                |
| 6. request    | f. hockey              |
| 7. sacrifices | g. lacrosse            |
| 8. safety     | h. patching horseshoes |
| 9. save       | i. rowing              |
| 10. scull     | j. skiing              |
| 11. slalom    | k. tennis              |
| 12. stymie    | l. wrestling           |

1. d



*"Where's King August? I'm supposed to clean his stables." \**

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## 17. Myths That Still Live

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THE ANCIENT Greeks and Romans had no soap operas, no Superman comics, no movie romances. But they had their myths. What Hollywood heroes could be more glamorous than Helen of Troy, what soap-opera wife more faithful than Penelope, what Superman or Buck Rogers more spectacular than Hercules, son of Jupiter?

The exploits of the Greek gods and goddesses, their demi-gods and heroes run like a gold thread through the tapestry of the world's literature, music, and art, and also science. In the last-named field, some of the achievements of modern man are like myths transformed into reality. Paradoxically, but fittingly enough, man has drawn upon the myths for a great number of descriptive names in the music, submarine, and space programs: Apollo, Arias, Jupiter, Mercury, Nike (goddess of Victory), Prometheus (who stole fire from the gods), Saturn, the Norse god Thor the Thunderer, Tessa, Triton (who

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\* Quoted reproduced courtesy the Saturday Review.

blew "his windshield here"), and Zant. Old and new meet again in the myths, which have truly never died, for hardly a day passes without some allusion being made in our newspapers to characters and events found in the myths.

Here, for instance, is a handful of recent headlines:

### **Argonauts of Work**

### **Labor of Hercules**

### **Don. O'Connell, Nemesis of Western Train Robbers**

### **Pandora's Box**

### **Tennessee Looks for a Sisyphus**

With one exception, the stories or editorials which followed these headlines did not explain the meaning of the mythological term. Yet, the reference to a myth set the tone of the story or editorial and slanted it.

There's only one good way for us to help you fix the meaning of such words or phrases and that's to tell the story behind the word or phrase, the story that dramatizes the meaning.

#### **ARTHUR HELL**

Until this summer Alaska was an *Arthur Hell*. It is no longer such to like degree, but there remains much to be done that will be basically valuable in *civil* politics or war.

## MYTHS THAT STILL LIVE

By dipping the infant Achilles into the River Styx, his mother made him invulnerable except in the heel by which she held him. Therefore the heel of Achilles is a weak spot, and so it proved in the case of Achilles, who was killed before the walls of Troy when Paris shot him in the heel with a poisoned arrow.

The tendon of Achilles, which binds the muscles of the calf to the bone of the heel, receives its name from this myth. In quadrupeds this tendon is called the *hockstring*. To hamstring an animal is to lame it by cutting this tendon. So, to hamstring means to weaken, to destroy the efficiency of, to cripple.

### AEON

No doubt the production will grow smoother and more fluent with repetition. But there should be no improvisatory air about what we read abroad under the aegis of the Government.

The aegis (also written agis) was the mantle and shield of Zeus. Even the king of the gods needed protection in his wars with the Titans. Zeus lent the aegis to his daughter Athena when she went into battle on the side of the Greeks during the Trojan War. Homer describes it as a sort of cloak. It is generally associated with statues of Athena on which it appears as a short cloak covered with scales. Whether it was a shield or cloak, it certainly had protective powers since on it were serpents and the head of the Gorgon which turned men to stone if they looked at it. In modern usage the meaning of aegis as a shield or protection has been extended to mean sponsorship or support.

### CASSANDRA

On many aspects of policy, particularly in the foreign field, Congress and the President have followed the Cassandra.

Apollo fell in love with Cassandra, a daughter of King Priam. He gave her the gift of prophecy, but when she failed

to carry out her promise to love him, he decreed that nobody should believe her, although she spoke the truth. A Cassandra is therefore a prophetess or prophet of doom. Today the name is applied to anybody who utters warnings of trouble to come whether the prophecy is believed or not.

### CHIMERA

However, if our military authorities approve a bridge, as they have in the case of the Delaware River Bridge seaward of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, it will be because they find these objections to be the chimeras Mr. Mowat believes them to be.

The Chimera (also written Chimæra) was a horrible monster that breathed fire, had the head of a lion, the body of a goat or a lion, a serpent's tail, and a goat's head on its back. Such a combination was usually fantastic even for the imagination of a mythologist. So, a wild dream, an impracticable idea, a vain fancy is called a *chimera*. The adjective is *chimerical*. In his essay "El Dorado" Robert Louis Stevenson calls the goals that men seek their *chimeras*.

A strange picture we make on our way to our *chimeras*, masochistically marching, grinding ourselves the time for rest; indefatigable, adventurous pioneers.

### HERMETICALLY SEALED

If one were to believe the electronics the day is not far distant when women will make their way about the globe without ever unfolding a map. Remote in time hermetically sealed capsules, they will—in theory—entirely follow a combination of meters, and later on a dial, phosphorescent screen.

Hermes, better known by his Roman name of Mercury, was the patron god of magic in the Middle Ages, alchemy, the predecessor of chemistry, was known as a *hermetic art*. To put the hermetic seal or the seal of Hermes on a bottle in the laboratory meant to twist the neck with flame and

## MYTHS THAT STILL LIVE

thereby seal it air-tight. The expression is often used figuratively to imply that a person's mind is shut against the infiltration of ideas or information.

### HYDRA-HEADED

But the guerrilla movement is *hydra-headed* as regards reinforcements both from within the country and from abroad.

The Hydra was a water monster (*hyde*, water, as in *hydant*, *hydraulics*, *hydrophobia*, *dehydration*) which had nine heads. Hercules was ordered to kill the Hydra as one of his twelve labors. The Hydra had remarkable regenerative powers, for as fast as Hercules cut off a head, two new ones replaced it. However, the heads could not grow back if fire was applied immediately to the cut. Hercules therefore enlisted the aid of an assistant who cauterized the necks as Hercules severed the heads. *Hydra-headed* means hard to eliminate or destroy. The term is applied to an evil which, apparently put down in one place, springs up elsewhere. In biology, the hydra is a fresh-water animal of almost microscopic size which has the property of its mythological namesake. If it is cut up, each part will develop into new hydra.

### INDIFFERENT

More than thirty years have passed since a geyser of indifferent vapor mushroomed 40,000 feet into the air over Hiroshima after the first atomic bomb ever launched in war exploded.

Iris was a lovely maiden who left a trail of color as she carried messages from the gods to the earth. She was the goddess of the rainbow. The word *iris* itself may mean a flower, a part of the eye, or a combination of brilliant colors, as in Tennyson's famous lines from "Locksley Hall":

In the spring a darter iris changes on the  
burnished dove.

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly  
turns to thoughts of love.



Knowing the origin of the word *professor*, you can see why it is spelled with one *r*.

### PANDORA'S BOX

This is a pleasant baseball, an idea that is repugnant to the point of bathosness. It would open a Pandora's box, releasing incalculable mischief.

The first woman, according to Greek mythology, was Pandora. Milton tells us in *Paradise Lost* how she got her name:

Pandora, whom the gods  
Endowed with all their gifts.

*Pan* means all and *dore* means gifts. Every god and goddess contributed something to make her a perfect being. Zeus, angered at mankind, sent her down to be a curse to men. It appears that until she was created, the earth was inhabited only by man and beasts. The gods gave her a box which she was warned not to open. Unable to overcome her curiosity, she did open it one day. Trouble then came upon earth. All the ills that plague the body and mind of man flew out. Only hope remained.

This version of the myth is decidedly anti-feminist. It started the legend that woman and her curiosity are responsible for the troubles from which men suffer. A Pandora's box is a source of evil, a seething cauldron on which a lid must be kept.

### PROMETHEUS

It is necessary today to educate the nonscientific public to the Promethean nature of atomic energy and the true character of science (for example, that it contains no secrets).

Prometheus was a Titan who brought the gift of fire to mankind so that by its use man could develop his civilization.

Like Prometheus the scientists of our time have wrested from Nature the secret that it no longer a secret. Once again

man are turning to the symbol of Prometheus as a house and warning to mankind. The meaning of the new Promethean gift in all its implications is well expressed in the following item found in the school page of the New York Times:

The name "prometheism" has been suggested by J. A. Marinsky and I. E. Osherovich (M.I.T.) for element 61, recently made artificially in the atomic pile at Oak Ridge. Prof. Charles D. Coryell (M.I.T. again) thinks the name appropriate.\* Prometheus taught man the use of fire. By way of punishment, jealous Zeus chained him to a mountainside and set vultures to tear out his viscera. To Professor Coryell "prometheism" symbolizes the hope of scientists that man will not be punished for developing the atomic bomb by having his viscera torn out by the vultures of war.

So, the myths have never died. In the stories we have retold, we have only sampled their survival. Here is a list of useful words for which we are indebted to the myths.

English Word	Meaning	Origin
ACHILLES	having the power to renew one's strength.	Achilles, a warrior, son of Peleus (Neptune) and Earth, was invincible as long as he was in contact with Mother Earth.
ARGONAUTS	gold-seekers; daring adventurers.	The Argonauts were heroes who sailed with Jason on the Argo in quest of the Golden Fleece. The origin of the name <i>argonauts</i> or <i>Astronauts</i> is clearly explained in the following sentence from an editorial in the <i>Harvard Tribune</i> , "Like the Argonauts of antiquity, today's astronauts are venturing closer and closer to the borders of the unknown." However, the Argonauts sailed (sail!) the seas on the Argo, their swift ship!

\* At first element 61 was named *Shklovskii* after the University of Illinois; finally its name was changed to *promethium*.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

English Word	Meaning	Origin
		the Argonauts are being propelled in a capsule toward the sun, stars or outer space. On April 12, 1961, the word <i>astronaut</i> (cosmos, universe + naute, sailor) became equated with <i>astronave</i> .
ARGUS-EYES:	very watchful, keen-sighted, all observant.	Argus was a mythological monster who had a hundred eyes, some of which always remained awake.
		Bacchus was the god of wine, and Bacchanalia were feasts or orgies in his honor.
BACCHANALIAN:	characterized by drunken revels, or by excessive luxury.	Calliope was the Muse of eloquence. Her name, meaning "sweetest voice," is humorously applied to this modern throat, hard-sounding instrument.
CALLIOPE:	a series of tones, whistles played from a keyboard, steam organ.	The infant Zeus was nursed by a goat named Amalthea, one of whose horns had the power of being filled with whatever the owner of it desired.
CORUSCULATE:	"burst of plenty"; inextinguishable nervous, symbol of abundance.	The Cyclopes were giants who erected structures by piling up huge stones without measuring them.
CYCLOPEAN:	huge, massive, applied especially to a type of early architecture.	Erös, Greek name of Cupid, god of love or desire.
EROTIC:	pertaining to sexual desire.	The Furies were three sisters so ugly that anyone looking at their faces turned to stone. Medusa, the most famous of these sisters, was killed by the hero Perseus, who looked at her reflection in a mirror and so avoided her direct gaze.
EROTIC:	an ugly person; a petrifying love.	
GRAPT:	a grasping, ravenous person.	The Harpies were winged female monsters that snatched the food of their victims and the souls of the dead.

## MYTHS THAT STILL LIVE

English Word	Meaning	Origin
HYMNENAL	pertaining to marriage.	Hymen, god of marriage.
DIKEPHALOS	two-headed.	Iambe, god of beginnings and doors. His statues show him with two heads facing in opposite directions.
IOPEIA	Joyous merry; inspiring mirth.	Ioulaia, pertaining to Ioupha. Figures born under the planet Jupiter are supposed to be joyful. Ancient sculptures and poets often represented Jupiter and Zeus as smiling upon men.
MENTOR	a teacher or wise counsellor; invariably applied to athletic coaches.	Mentor was the friend of Ulysses to whom the latter entrusted the education of his son.
MERCURIAL	swift, active; having the qualities of mercury or quicksilver; influenced by being born under the planet Mercury.	Mercury, the messenger of the gods, who flew with the aid of his winged sandals.
MYRMEKON	loyal followers; attendants who execute orders without question, with obsequy.	The Myrmidons were a tribe of warriors who followed Achilles.
EROTISMI	self-love and adulation.	Eros was a handsome youth who fell in love with his own reflection and was changed into the swan of the same name.
RETRIBUTI	an agent of retribution or punishment; relentless pursuer of evil-doers; "pay."	Hermes, godlike of retribution and punishment, the upholder of the moral code.
OSTRACI	long voyage; dangerous journey.	Odyseus (Ulysses), hero of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> , took ten years in which to get home.

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

English Word	Meaning	Origin
		from the Trojan War, meeting with many strange adventures and perils.
OLYMPIAN	sublime, awe-inspiring, detached and aloof.	Mt. Olympus was the home of the gods.
MYTHIC	epoch of the hills and mountains.	Myths were beautiful fables who typified the spirit of nature. Giants lived in mountains, dryads in trees, naiads in streams, and nereids in the sea.
PARNASS	a song of praise, triumph or thanksgiving.	Parnassus, the song of deliverance sung by Apollo after his victory over the Python.
PALLADIUM	admirable, as in the expression, "The Pill of Right is the palladium of our liberties."	From Pallas Athena (Minerva). Her image or palladium guarded Troy and Troy could not be taken until after Ulysses had stolen the image.
PHOENIX	a person or thing supposed to have died or to have passed into oblivion and then to have risen again; a symbol of immortality; a rare bird (see p. 682).	The phoenix was a fabulous bird living at least 500 years. After being consumed in fire, it rose fresh and youthful from its own ashes.
PROTEUS	changing in shape.	Proteus was "the old man of the sea" who could change his form and appearance at will.
SATURNINE	heavy, gloomy, sad.	Saturn (Cronus in Greek) was the father of Jupiter. Saturn himself was joyful and his period of rule was supposed to be a golden age. The feasts celebrating his worship were gay and wild, like our New Year's Eve, from which fact we get Saturnalia to mean a wild time. However, satyrus has given surname to gloomy legend.

## MYTHS THAT STILL LIVE

		for persons born under the influence of the planet Saturn are supposed to be moose and rail.
HERCULEAN:	Herculean effort, hell-laying.	Hector, hero of the Greeks in the Trojan War. He was their human loud speaker before microphones and public-address systems.
STYGLIAN:	inky, gloomy, dark, infernal.	The River Styx flowed down into the Lower World. Spirits entering Hades had to cross it on a ferry piloted by Charon.
TERPSICHOEAN:	pertaining to dancing.	The nine Muses presided over the arts. Terpsichore was the Muse of the dances.

## PHRASES THAT TELL A STORY

In your reading you will meet not only single words like these but phrases and sometimes sentences taken from mythology, phrases whose full meaning is not revealed unless you take a look behind the mythological curtain. Let's look.

### HELE LIKE ACHILLES IN HIS TENT

During the siege of Troy, Achilles, the greatest of all the Greek heroes, refused to fight because of a quarrel with his leader Agamemnon who had taken away a captive girl awarded to Achilles. Achilles withdrew to his tent and didn't go out to fight until after the death of his friend Patroclus. The phrase means to refuse to participate in an important undertaking because of personal grievance.

### BEWARE THE GREEKS REARING GIFTS

The Greeks, unable to capture Troy by storm, resorted to trickery. They left a huge wooden horse filled with armed men outside the walls and pretended to sail away. The Trojans wanted to drag the horse into the town and celebrate but their priest Laocöon warned them that the horse was a trap, with these famous words: "I fear the Greeks even when

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

they bear gifts." The Trojans went right on with their plans, made an opening in the walls, and wheeled in the wooden horse, which, though a Greek gift, has ever since been known as the Trojan Horse, a symbol of treacherous infiltration.

### LABORS OF HERCULES

These are superhuman labors and *herculean* is a word used to describe superhuman strength. Hercules was sentenced by Apollo to perform twelve labors of extraordinary difficulty, one of which was

### CLEANING THE AUGEAN STABLES

King Augeas owned twelve white bulls sacred to Apollo. Their stables had not been cleaned in thirty years! Hercules was called upon to do the work in one day. He diverted the course of a river, made it run through the stables, and reported his mission completed. To *clean the Augean stables* means to clear up a mess. The phrase is sometimes applied to the efforts of a reform government to undo the corruption left by its predecessors.

### THE BURNING OF SYPHAX

This phrase has been used to describe the poor wage-earners' efforts to keep up with the rising cost of living. It's a never-ending task. Sisyphus, mythological king of Corinth, was punished for his misdeeds on earth by being forced to roll a huge boulder uphill to Hades. He never finished his assignment for no sooner had he rolled the stone near his goal than it slipped downhill, and he had to start all over again.

### THE SNAKE OF PROCRUSTES

Procrustes, "the Stretcher," was a highwayman and inn-keeper who had an ingenious method of torturing his guests and victims. He insisted that each of them must exactly fit the iron bed in his inn. To accomplish this end, he would stretch a guest if he was too short or cut his legs to size if he

was too tall. A system—educational or political—in which the individual must fit a single type or pattern and conform arbitrarily is known as a *bed of Procrustes*, or *procrustean*.

## A KUP TO CERBERUS

Cerberus was a three-headed dog that guarded the entrance of the Lower World and growled at newcomers. A few of the mythological heroes like Heracles, Theseus, and Aeneas wanted to visit the Lower World and return from it. They had to get by Cerberus. Aeneas did it by throwing Cerberus a drugged honey cake that put the dog to sleep. Throwing a *kup* to Cerberus means making a conciliatory offering to someone who may cause trouble.

## SOWING THE DRAGON'S TEETH

Cadmus went in search of his sister, Europa, who had been abducted by Zeus. In the course of his wanderings, he killed a dragon and at the advice of Athena planted the teeth. A fierce band of warriors arose from the teeth, and again at the advice of Athena, Cadmus hurled a stone among them. Each blamed his neighbor with the result that a free-for-all took place until almost all of them were killed. (The same episode occurs in the story of Jason.) *Sowing the dragon's teeth* means planting the seeds that lead to war.

## BETWEEN SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

This phrase is similar to "out of the frying pan into the fire," or "between the devil and the deep blue sea." Scylla and Charybdis were monsters guarding the strait between Italy and Sicily. They preyed upon vessels which tried to pass through. If the sailors gave one a wide berth, they were almost certain to come too close to the other.

## I. Not a Herculean Labor

Some words that have come to us from myths do not necessarily present vocabulary difficulties. Refresh your memory of the words in the left-hand column by matching



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

them with the terms on the right. Consult a dictionary for their origin. Answers for these tests will be found on page 366.

1. ATLAS	a. group of animals
2. TITANIC	b. source designed
3. TANTALIZE	c. lend person
4. TITAN	d. very large
5. VULGARIZE	e. strong woman
6. SKIN	f. leave
7. FASCIC	g. treat rubber by heating
8. ANCHOR	h. back of map
9. FUROR	i. terror
10. BATH	j. flocking women

### II. Ten Small Tests

The sentences below contain words or phrases of mythological origin. From the group of words after each sentence select the definition that comes closest to the meaning of the italicized words.

1. The recommendation that the state legalize off-track betting is quite akin to *proving the lid off the box of Pandora*, and the moralists already are *tumbling in dismay*.

- (a) committing a great sin (b) winning a signal victory  
(c) making an irrevocable decision (d) releasing irreparable troubles

2. And so, at the very moment last fall when economist Cassander was crying inflation, the curtain was already rising on the first act of an old economic drama whose title is, *What Goes Up Must Come Down*.

- (a) prophets of disaster (b) experts (c) lobbyists (d) investors

3. In Washington the democracy boards are reviewing the cases of all general prisoners—a *herculean job*.

- (a) unaided (b) time-consuming (c) difficult (d) thankless

4. Marshall and Molotov, at Moscow, warily agreed to respect negotiations which may abolish the *hermetic border* which separates North and South Korea.

- (a) guarded (b) ideological (c) imaginary (d) tightly sealed

5. They [the nations of eastern Europe] have moved beyond being a "sphere of influence" for their Russian neighbor and master.

- (a) ruler (b) adviser (c) protector (d) supplier of weapons

## MYTHS THAT STILL LIVE

6. The ancient Greek nation was interested in the appearance of some scarce commodities  
(a) quack (b) official (c) scarce (d) need
7. His legs seem to have the touch of Atlas  
(a) unusual strength (b) inability to hold on to money  
(c) extreme sensitivity (d) ability to turn all they touch to gold
8. Mr. Franklin is a proven man of letters with strong moral convictions and the ability to perform equally well in different fields  
(a) proven (b) versatile (c) genuine (d) prominent
9. It is not easy to be a writer, these days, but the account executives and grocery clerks are not having any *anawake*, either  
(a) wild holiday (b) easy time (c) prosperity (d) public recognition
10. "The roll call is concluded," Lyndon Johnson announced in strenuous accents.  
(a) dignified (b) Southern (c) booming (d) weary



You see, we start out by teaching them the words they'll use most frequently.\*

## 18. Slang Is "Old Stuff"

SOME WORDS and phrases are designed for the long pull through the centuries and some serve merely to brighten the passing moment. Slang is the short, quick thrust—here today and gone tomorrow.

There are two kinds of slang—good and bad. The bad becomes fashionably popular for a while and soon dies. "So's your Aunt Tilly" and "23 skiddoo" had their brief run. Today they are amusing museum pieces, tags to identify a by-

\* During repeated contact Gailor's.

gone age. But the best slang lasts a long time because it has roots in the imagination and because it takes a vivid shortcut to our thoughts. Even our statisticians find it hard to get along without expressions like "spill the beans," "throw mud on," "go out on a limb," "kiss holding the bag." Such phrases will last as long as the picture they present remains true and the color vivid.

However, we are not going to deal here with slang as a special form of language. As always, we are interested in presenting words that will enrich or increase your vocabulary. We are, therefore, taking up words which are completely respectable and dignified, words which have made the long pull through the centuries but which, when dissected, will reveal a slang or colloquial expression that is still in use.

## WHAT'S COOKING?

Many of the expressions that we regard as slang or colloquial today were "old stuff" to the Greeks and Romans thousands of years ago. They had words for them—single words that no longer have any slang overtones for us today. We use the word *concoct* without realizing that in one dignified word we are echoing the slang phrase "to cook up." Yet that is what *concoct* means. *Dignally* (root from the Latin verb meaning "to cook" + *con*, together), and the obvious question to ask someone who is concocting something is, "What's cooking?"

If we dig around among some of our respectable words, we're going to find scattered in them the picturesque language of modern slang. For each of the expressions listed below—believe it or not—we are going to find a dignified word that says it all.

When you have finished reading the chapter come back and fill in these words. Each dot stands for a letter. You will find the answers in the reading material itself!

### *Slang or Colloquial Phrase*

### *Dignified Word*

- |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. a chip off the old block | ..... |
| 2. close your eyes to       | ..... |
| 3. detour the palm          | ..... |
| 4. give someone the eye     | ....  |
| 5. going through the mill   | ..... |

## SLANG IS "OLD STUFF"

6. high-brow and high-bat	.....
7. playing along with	.....
8. sail into	.....
9. shooting off one's mouth	.....
10. sitting the one out	.....
11. take a cut	.....
12. strip the hide off	.....
13. supply	.....
14. wind up	.....

## TELLING 'EM OFF

When you're not using dignified words, when instead you are abusive in your language and just "shooting off your mouth," you are unleashing a *trade*, a volley of words. *Trade* is from French *tirer*, to shoot.

If you "sail into" an opponent then you are *inswinging* against him; you are using *invective*. Or, perhaps, you may prefer a stronger word, one the headline writers favor when they want to describe a blistering attack:

## RUSSIAN CRITICS EXCORIATE TWO COLUMBIA MEN

*Excoriate* means literally "to strip the hide off" (*ex*, off + *corium*, hide or leather). In the Middle Ages, as any reader of a best-selling historical romance knows, the well-dressed knight wore a leather breast-plate called a *cuirass* (French). Also via French we get the word *scourge*, a lash or whip—something made from a strip of leather. A *scourge* (rhymes with *urge*) is either the means of inflicting punishment or, more often, the punishment or affliction itself.

## SETTIN' PRETTY

If you don't go along with the majority point of view, you are taking a *dissever* position. You literally decide not to go along, you *set* apart (*set*, apart + *dis*, red, set). You are saying, "I'll set this one out." The roots *set* and *red* give us many

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useful words that we are setting down here:

- SUPPLANT:** Literally "to sit above" (*super*), therefore, to displace and replace.
- SEDATIVE:** a drug that invites your nerves to sit down and take it easy. A person whose personality is normally reserved, startled and nervous is sedate.
- POUNCE:** Literally "spring on" (*pounce*), ready to pounce; therefore, sly, treacherous, wily.
- REPOSE:** Literally a place where (we hope) we can "sit back" and relax.
- ASSIDUOUS:** Literally "sitting close to" one's work; therefore working diligently, devotedly, and conscientiously.

A word usually given as a synonym for *assiduous* is *sedulous*, which may well be a sitting word too but it is generally believed to come from a Latin word meaning sincerely (*se*, without + *dolo*, guile). Doing something sincerely, with complete application, is to do it *sedulously*. Robert Louis Stevenson attributed the development of his literary style to his *sedulous* study and his imitation of writers he admired, to his having "played the sedulous ape to Hiccup, to Larch, to Wordsworth."

But if your heart isn't in what you are doing, if you are merely "going through the motions," you are doing it in a perfunctory way. You're doing it just to get through with it (*per*, through + *funct*, performed). From the same root we get the word *defunct*, having ceased to *function*, no longer performing, deceased.

## PLAY BALL WITH

You "play along with" or "play ball with" those with whom you are in *collusion* (*col* for *com*, with + *lud*, *lud*, play). A *prelude* is something we hear before a play, an interlude between parts of a play, and a *postlude* after when you shade someone you get away from him through quickness and cunning. An *illusion* is an appearance that plays tricks on you, not to be confused with an *allusion* which is an indirect or passing reference to something. To *defraud* is to "play false," to deceive.

## MAKING WITH THE EYES

The "wool is being pulled over your eyes" when you allow yourself to be inveigled into something. *Inveigle* comes from *aveigle*, French for blind, which goes back to *oculus*, the Latin word for eye (*ab* + *oculus*, without the use of your eyes).

If you "make eyes at a girl" or "give her the eye" you are ogling her. *Ogle* comes from the Dutch word for eye and is related both to the German word *Augen* and the Latin *oculus*. A *supercilious* person is one who arches his eyebrows and looks down his nose at you, in other words, a "high-brow" who "high-brows" you. *Supercilious* is made up of *super* (above or high) and *cilio* (eyelids or eyebrows). A person who is *laughey* (French *haute*, high) is just "uppity."

If you "close your eyes to" something that you know is going to happen you are guilty of *conceiving*, the literal meaning of which is "winking along with."

## CUT ME IN

Someone who has conspired with another may ask for his share, and *share* is literally a "cut." *Share* goes back to an Anglo-Saxon word that also gives us *shear*, *ploughshare*, and *shard* (also *sherd* and *potsherd*), a piece of pottery that has been cut or broken off.

The Greek combining form for cut or split is *schizo*. From it we get three "cutting" words in which the *sch* sound is pronounced in three different ways! *Split*, *loot*, and *latency*:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>schizma</i> (pronounced <i>shim</i> ):              | a split, a cleavage   |
| 2. <i>schist</i> (pronounced <i>shist</i> ):              | a type of rock that splits easily into slabs or sheets                              |
| 3. <i>schizophrenia</i> (pronounced <i>shizofrenia</i> ): | a word we use for a mental condition, popularly referred to as a split personality. |

The Latin root for cut, set, gives us *segment*, a section, a piece cut off, and probably *scion*, a descendant, "a chip off the old block."

## UNDER THE COUNTER

A person who takes another kind of "cut" by means of misappropriating funds is guilty of embezzlement or *defalcation*. To *defalcate* is literally to cut down with a sickle (Latin *falx, falcis*).

Money is usually involved in the expression "decorating the palm." The person at the receiving end is being suborned (*sub, under, + orn, decorate or furnish*). To *suborn* means to bribe for criminal purposes, especially for perjury. The root *orn* appears in *adorn, ornament, and ornate*, which has come to mean over-decorated.

## WISE GUYS

You're not likely to have anything put over on you if you are "wised up" or *sophisticated* (*sophos*, Greek for wise). The Sophists or Wise Men were a group of teachers who achieved great fame in Greece during the fifth century B.C. Although they had many good educational ideas, they got a bad reputation because they accepted pay—so unlike a gentleman—and because they used subtle methods of argumentation. Some of the Sophists even boasted that they could "make the worse appear the better reason." Hence the word *sophistry* has an unfavorable connotation and means arguing deceptively, attempting to turn a poor case into a good one by means of clever but specious reasoning. And so the word *sophistry*, that contains the root for wise in it, has come to be a synonym for *reason, fallacious reasoning, quibbling, and cantistry*.

## SLING YOUR OWN SLANG

Can you fill in the diglossified word which, when dissected, becomes a "translation" of the slang or colloquial expression? To help you, we have changed or adapted the meanings of the prefixes to fit the modern slang or colloquial phrase. We are also giving you synonyms for the word to be filled in. And because you have read thus far in the book we are throwing in the suffix *as hysloppe*. Each dot stands for a



letter. Answers will be found on page 166.

<i>Dignified Word</i>	<i>Related Slang</i>	<i>Latin Root or Word</i>	<i>Synonym</i>
1. ....	"heat up"	causa, set on fire	enraged
2. ....	"a cover up"	causa, covered	excuse
3. ....	"sing a different tune"	causa, song	take back, publicly
4. ....	"put something over on"	causa, put	deceive
<i>Dignified Word</i>	<i>Related Slang</i>	<i>Latin Root or Word</i>	<i>Synonym</i>
5. .... the	"pile it on"	agger, heap	critique
6. ....	"catch on"	prehend, seize	understand
7. .... de	"fly off the handle"	volat, fly	volatile
8. .... try	"check"	prova, forehead	impudence
9. ....	"tell the world"	valgue, the common people	make public
10. .... ted	"on the dot"	punct, point	prompt
11. ....	"died up in knots"	plic, interwoven, entangled	puzzled
12. ....	"to get around"	vest, come	evade, by-pass



*THE NEW YORKER*  
1961

*"I wonder why Democles moved my place card to the corner of the table."* \*

## 19. Out of the Post

### PYRRHIC VICTORY

At the beginning of President Kennedy's administration the House of Representatives passed a bill enlarging the House Rules Committee. David Lawrence, no supporter of this plan, under the headline, VICTORY OVER HOUSE RULES INTERPRETED AS PYRRHIC ONE, wrote, "It was a Pyrrhic victory—the radicals won the battle over the plan to 'jack' the House Rules Committee, but it's still a question as to who will win the real war." As used here, Pyrrhic victory is a bit of wishful thinking.

A Pyrrhic victory costs more than it gains. This kind of hollow triumph gets its name from Pyrrhus, King of Epirus.

\* Being reproduced courtesy the Saturday Review.

in Greece, who invaded Italy in 320 B.C. and defeated the Romans at Metaurus and Asculum. However, he himself was wounded and so many of his men were killed that he was unable to follow up his victories. He won the battles but not the war. According to Plutarch, Pyrrhus remarked, "Another such victory and we are undone."

This whole story and its meaning are summarized in a single phrase—a *Pyrrhic* victory. Whenever you use this phrase or others taken from history, you are taking a short cut in language. Through this trip into the past, you are expressing in a single word or phrase an idea which saves you sentences or paragraphs of explanation.

In addition, you are making a vivid comparison which is illustrated by this flashback into the past. Stern measures become even more rigid when they are called *draconian* laws, a costly banquet appears richer when it is called a *Lucullan* feast, and cautious maneuvers are more gradual when they are termed *Fabian* tactics.

Our language is rich in terms, phrases, and expressions that recall the history of Greece and Rome. These words were once part of the everyday speech and writing of generations of students who knew Greek and Latin thoroughly and who were often more familiar with the history of Greece and Rome than with that of their own country. Thus, the phrases and words that recall events and customs of ancient times came into our language and remain a living part of it.

You will meet such phrases constantly in your reading. Expressions like the sword of *Damocles*, a *Macaroni*, crossing the *Rubicon*, words like *sarap* and *helot* will take on new meaning and broader connotation when you know their full story.

We took each of the following phrases and words from current newspapers and magazines. We are including synonyms and related words.

#### ACADEMIC

It is academic to talk of any other  
expedient. And the time for academic  
theorizing is now long past.

Plato's school in Athens was called the *Academy*. *Academic* therefore literally means related to schools or to scholarship.

However, since what goes on in the schools is often considered remote from reality or practical life, academic has come to mean "without practical value." An academic discussion is one which does not lead to an immediate practical solution, one which is engaged in for the sake of argument only.

Synonyms of academic in this sense are theoretical and speculative.

# AUGUR

It is estimated there will soon be forty-five hours a week of quiz-game shows on the television networks, a prospect that saps the soul and mind for the network "police state" which are duty-bound to keep television acceptance alive.

Among the Romans the augurs were the priests who foretold the future through the flight of birds, the weather and other signs. To augur well is therefore to prophesy favorably. When the augur pronounced the omen favorable, public business could begin or be inaugurated. The word for bird, avia, from which we get aviary, aviator and aviation, is contained in augur and augures, which also is related to inspecting the flight of birds as omen.

## Synonyms

augur (verb): forecast, predict, forecast, prognose, portend, prognosticate, prophesy

augur (noun): prophet, soothsayer, diviner, oracle

augury  
omen, portent, sign, symptom, prophecy  
(note that prophesy is the noun and prophesy the verb)

auspicious: favorable, propitious, beaute, lucky, providential, well-omened, rosy

inaugurate: install, induct, initiate, commence, start, unveil, dedicate, found, establish

## BREAD AND CIRCUSES

According to the sociological theories of an ancient Roman named Juvenal there are only a couple of things needed to keep the average citizen from becoming untidily excited—bread and circuses.

As he surveyed the breakdown of Roman society, the satirist Juvenal bitterly remarked that the common people desired only two things to keep them satisfied—*panem et circenses*. *Panem* is bread and *circenses* are games and entertainments. The expression "bread and circuses" is used to indicate that in times of social stress the people can be kept happy with food and entertainment at public expense, as the Roman rulers once supplied free grain and sports.

## CAESAR'S WIFE

Like Caesar's wife, the keeper of the British budget not only must do no wrong, but must avoid any indication, however innocent or slight, that might conceivably permit any suspicion of wrongdoing.

The sentence quoted clearly explains the meaning of the phrase, "like Caesar's wife." The phrase is especially applied, as here, to public officials whose conduct must be free not only from actual misdeed but from any suspicion of wrongdoing. Plutarch tells us how the expression arose. A young nobleman Publius Clodius was accused of a religious crime in which Pompeia, the wife of Caesar, was implicated. Caesar divorced Pompeia, "but being summoned as a witness against Clodius, said she had nothing to charge him with. This looking like a paradox, the speaker asked him why he parted with his wife. Caesar replied, 'I wish my wife to be not so much as suspected.'"

## CANNIBAL

The enemy . . . evolved the "The Plan," a complicated, tortuous, . . . unworkable design for destroying American naval forces piecemeal and by a Cannibal-like development accumulating both our land and sea strength.

In 216 B.C. at Cannae in Apulia, Italy, the Carthaginians

## OUT OF THE PAST

general Haansted achieved the classic dream of every military commander. He enveloped, encircled, and destroyed a Russian army. A defeat of this type or a total defeat is known as a *Cannae*. Von Hindenburg achieved a *Cannae* at the expense of the Russians near Tannenberg in 1914, and the Russians retreated in World War II at Stalingrad for one of the decisive battles of that war. *Annihilation* and *devastation* are associated with a *Cannae*.

### CROSSING THE RUBICON

Two major factors have now decided the Labor party, if only by a narrow majority, to cross their political Rubicon.

To cross the Rubicon means to take a final, irrevocable step which may have dangerous consequences. The Rubicon is a small stream in northern Italy which separated the province of which Caesar was the governor from Italy proper. His political rivals at Rome had passed a law ordering him to disband his army. Caesar marched to the river and stood at the bank undecided whether to cross it and thereby precipitate civil war. Finally, according to Plutarch, "casting aside calculation, and abandoning himself to what might come, and using the proverb frequently in their mouths who enter upon dangerous and bold attempts, 'The die is cast,' he dashed across the river."

*Relaxed Expressions*. to take the plunge, to burn his bridges behind him.

### CUTTING THE GORDIAN KNOT

In the modern world, however, "good government is no substitute for self-government." Strong or weak, Romans had to go from below. They solved their problem in the only possible way, they cut the Gordian knot.

Gordius, a legendary king of Phrygia in Asia Minor, dedicated his chariot to Zeus. The pole of the chariot was fastened to the yoke by a strong tied in an unfastenable knot. The oracle declared that whoever untied the knot would rule all Asia.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

When Alexander passed through Gordium, he did not try to untie the knot by ordinary means but cut it through with his sword. Alexander the Great was always the man for a simple, direct solution. To cut the Gordian knot means to attack a problem directly and solve it boldly.

### CYNICAL

An example of contemporary cynical thought among young German intellectuals is a poem called "Diogenes," in the latest issue of the school magazine at Heidelberg University.

The Cynics were a school of philosophers in Greece who taught the values of self-control and independence. Some of their disciples showed their independence to such an extent that they expressed contempt for ease and wealth and disbelieved any decent motives in man's actions. Diogenes, one of the most famous Cynics, is said to have despised the ordinary comforts of life to such a degree that he lived in a tub in the market place. In that same market place he went about with a lantern in broad daylight looking for a man or, as some say, for an honest man. Diogenes had so little faith in the honesty of mankind that once when he saw officials of a temple leading away a thief who had stolen a sacred bowl, he commented, "The big thieves have caught a little thief."

Cynic is related to the word for dog. The people of Athens called the philosophers of this sect Cynics because of their snarling manner. A cynical person is one who constantly finds fault, distrusts the motives of others, and has little faith in the noble aspirations of humanity.

Synonymous: sneering, captious, curdling, curping, censorious, pessimistic, disbelieving, unbelieving, misanthropic.

### DRACONIAN

Of the three measures taken against the immigrants, the most draconian were probably those taken by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

Draco was an Athenian lawgiver whose code of laws established in 621 B.C. called for the most severe penalties for the smallest offenses. His laws were said to be written not in ink, but in blood.

*Synonym:* severe, stern, rigid, stringent, cruel, rigorous, harsh, inamittigable, drastic.

### FALLEN

... they meant that socialism would be achieved in all reasonable societies by gradually doing one thing after another, each in its proper time. This faith became the cornerstone of the Fabian Society, of which the Webbs, George Bernard Shaw and Edward R. Pease were founding members.

Quintus Fabius Maximus was appointed dictator in 217 B.C. to lead the Romans in the war against Hannibal. Fabius, also known as Cunctator or the Delayer, harassed Hannibal's army, cut off his supplies, and avoided open conflict. A cautious, waiting, dilatory policy is therefore called *Fabian*.

### HEEDLESS

Although "The Rehearsal" was a poetic masterpiece, its skepticism and hedonism seemed deplorable to many good Victorians, as they have to many others since.

Hedonism, from a Greek word meaning sweetness or pleasure, is the name of a philosophical doctrine that pleasure is the chief aim of life. The pursuit of pleasure is associated also with the followers of Epicurus. Although the philosophy of the Epicureans embraced many other tenets, it is identified chiefly with the love of pleasure so that *epicureanism* has become a synonym for luxurious living. An *epicure* is a person who is fond of choice food and drink or has delicate tastes. In the same class are the *sybarites*—after the inhabitants of Sybaris in Southern Italy, who were noted for their love of luxury.



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### Synonyms:

**EPICURE** gourmet, gourmand, glutton, bon vivant, gastro-  
some, gourmet

**EPICUREAN** epicurian, hedonistic, voluptuous, dissolute, sensu-  
ous

### LUCULLAN

The picture of overstuffed American capitalists sitting down to Lucullan feasts would be accepted readily by many Soviet critics.

Lucius Licinius Lucullus, a celebrated Roman general of the first century a.c., was fond of the good things of life. After he retired from the wars, he devoted himself to a care-free life of luxury. Plutarch tells us that "his daily entertainments were ostentatiously extravagant, not only with purple coverlets, and plates set with precious stones, and dancers, and dramatic recitations, but with the greatest diversity of dishes and the most elaborate cookery." Once when he ate alone, the cook thought there was no need of display and served a simple one-course meal. Lucullus rebuked him with these famous words, "What, did you not know, then, that today Lucullus dines with Lucullus?"

Synonyms: rich, sumptuous, lavish, luxurious, magnificent, elegant, extravagant.

### PHILIPPIC

Many a philippic has been aimed at advertising and advertising men in our times.

When King Philip of Macedonia invaded Greece, Demosthenes the Athenian, the greatest orator of ancient times, thundered at him in celebrated speeches called *Philippics*. A philippic is therefore any violent denunciation—so violent that a philippic is never uttered, it is always aimed or hurled.

Synonyms: condemnation, execration, tirade, invective, incrimination, vituperation, calumny, denunciation, indictment.

**SATRAP**

Mr. De Saple lost the patronage that makes a boss strong. More of the local satraps turned on him, as was evidenced in the Manhattan Borough President election. And when the political boss can't deliver, he is done for.

The viceroys or governors of the provinces of ancient Persia were called *satraps*. The ancient Greeks humorously referred to a subordinate official with power and wealth as a *satrap*. The word is used pretty nearly in the same sense today to mean "a big shot." *Nabob*, *pathe* or *barbaw*, *rajah*, *tycoon*, *mogul*, and *bigwig* are used in a similar way. A scally humorous title is *parjandrum*, coined by Samuel Foote. A serious word for a governor of a province or of conquered land is *proconsul*, from the Roman title for that official.

**SOLICITUD**

But she [Mrs. C. F. Sewel] used the word "less" in a construction in which Fowler, the Grand Parjandrum of English usage, prefers "fewer." To judge by the spate of letters in *The Book Review* of January 29, 1961, that solitud gave a number of Americans a heady feeling of upstartship.

The ancient Athenians gave to their fellow Greeks in the colony of Soli in Asia Minor the reputation which the modern Brooklynites bear without just reason: they accused them of malingering the language. A *solicism*, from the name *Soli*, is an incorrect grammatical usage, a mistake in the idiom of a language, any type of error including improper use of words or a deviation from logic.

For *Parjandrum* see page 236.

**STOICISM**

**L.I.R.R. Riders  
Take Fare Rise  
With Stoicism**

The Stoa was a colonnade in Athens where the philosopher

Zeno founded a school about 300 a.c. His philosophy was called Stoicism after the place where the school was established. One of its principles was that the wise man should be free from passion, untouched by joy or grief, willingly submissive to natural law. As in the case of the word *apocryphal*, the modern use of the words *stoic* and *stoicism* commemorates only one aspect of the teachings of the Stoic philosophers. A person who controls his emotions, who endures the hardships of life without complaint or whimper is said to possess stoic resignation.

Synonyms: stolidity, impassivity, apathy, phlegm, fortitude, pluck, indifference.

#### SWORD OF DAMOCLES

Nevertheless—pity the poor government worker with a sword of Damocles hanging over his head!

Damocles, a resident of Syracuse in Sicily, was a companion and flatterer of Dionysius, the ruler of that city. Growing weary of his constant remarks about a king's happiness, wealth, and power, Dionysius therefore decided to teach him an object lesson. He invited Damocles to a magnificent banquet. As Damocles prepared to enjoy the first course, Dionysius asked him to look up. Directly above his head, Damocles noticed with horror that an unsheathed sword was hanging suspended by a single horse-hair. Needless to say, he lost all interest in the meal. The *sword of Damocles* has a double meaning today. It symbolizes the vanity of human wishes—"uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." More concretely, it suggests a terrible doom impending, a sense of insecurity and danger.

#### I. Matching

From the column on the right select the term or definition that will best explain the meaning of the words in the left-hand column. Answers for these test will be found on page 167.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <u>discommod</u> | a. love of pleasure |
| 2. <u>procosed</u>  | b. favorable        |
| 3. <u>solennus</u>  | c. theoretical      |

4. academic	d. generosity of conquered land
5. philippic	e. mistake in grammar
6. solace	f. drastic
7. cynical	g. demonstration
8. epigrammatic	h. customs
9. suspicious	i. meekly retired
10. Fabian	j. ingratiation

### B. Treasure Hunt

You have met or probably will meet the expressions in the left-hand column. How many can you check with the phrases and expressions on the right?

1. Cicero	a. teaching by questioning
2. Marcomas	b. spiritual love
3. solace	c. parting remarks
4. helot	d. slave
5. plebeian	e. fabulously wealthy man
6. uph. like Alexander	f. destruction of the conquered
7. Socratic method	g. wise man
8. Platonic friendship	h. lower-class
9. Parthian shot	i. long for more congenial
10. Carthaginian peace	j. patron of the arts



"Some botanist called it *Sesbania atropurpurea* Linnaeus,  
and the name stuck." \*

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## 20. What's in a Name?

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CHRISTOPHER PINCHBECK was a watchmaker and toy-maker who owned a shop on Fleet Street in London during the early part of the eighteenth century. His name lives in the English language because he invented an alloy of copper and zinc that looked like gold. He used this metal in the making of cheap toys, clocks, and watches. It became so popular that a character in one of Fielding's novels complained that

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"The nobility and gentry ran so much into Pinchbeck" that he himself "had not dispos'd of two gold watches this month."

Mr. Pinchbeck and his son, who carried on the business after the death of the inventor, did not attempt to fool the public. Their advertisements plainly declared that the toys were made of "a curious metal." However, as often happens, the word *pinchbeck* by which the metal was popularly known degenerated in meaning until now the word has the connotation of cheap, shoddy, spurious, not genuine.

Something else happened to the word, as you've noticed. It lost its capital letter and became a common noun. We have hundreds of such words in English, most of them so simple in meaning that the knowledge of their origin is a mere verbal or historical curiosity. Everyone knows what a sandwich is even if he doesn't know that it was named after an Earl of Sandwich. We, therefore, are living with their stories some of the more useful difficult same-words.

### WORDS FROM PEOPLE'S NAMES

#### BOWDLITISE

Dr. Thomas Bowdler in 1818 published *The Family Shakespeare*, an edition in which "those words and expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud in a family." To *bowdlerize*, therefore, means to expurgate a book by leaving out or changing passages or words considered indecent or offensive.

#### GALVANIZE

Luigi Galvani (1737-1796), professor of physiology at Bologna, Italy, is called the father of animal electricity. His name has been perpetuated in many terms associated with electricity. In everyday speech the word *galvanize* means to electrify, to stir into action as if with an electric shock.

#### MACHIAVELLIAN

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was a Florentine who wrote a famous book called *The Prince* as a handbook of

government for the rulers of his time. He set down the principles of taking and holding power. The word *Machiavellian* is now used to mean cunning, crafty, and deceitful, although originally the book did nothing more than set down as a science what is now called power politics.

#### MARTINET

A *martinet* is a military taskmaster, a stickler for details of discipline. A rigid disciplinarian in any activity is called a martinet. The original was a General Martinet in the army of Louis XIV.

#### MASOCHISM

Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (1815-1865) was an Austrian novelist who described an abnormal mental condition in which a person derived pleasure in being abused and punished by someone he loved. The word *masochism* is often used more broadly to mean self-torture. A *masochist* is a person who enjoys tormenting himself.

#### MAUSOLEUM

Mausolus was the king of Caria, a country in Asia Minor. After his death his wife Artemisia erected an enormous and beautiful tomb which was ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The word *mausoleum* is now used not only for a large tomb but for any large structure whose obnoxious aspect suggests a tomb.

#### MAVERICK

Samuel A. Maverick was a Texas rancher of the 1840's who didn't bother to brand his calves. At first the word *maverick* was used only for unbranded calves. Then the

misbegotten was extended to apply to one who doesn't follow the common herd. A politician who is unpredictable, who doesn't always follow the dictates of his party is called a *misbegotten*.

#### MISMEANS

F. A. Maunier (1774-1815) created a sensation in Vienna and Paris about 1775 by his assertion that there existed a power which he called animal magnetism. At first the name *magnetism* was given to this power; the later term is *hypnotism*. To *magnetize* means to hypnotize.

#### PASQUINADE

In the Piazza Navona in Rome stood the mutilated remains of an ancient statue. During the sixteenth century, there lived near it a tailor or a schoolmaster, a barber or shoemaker—his occupation varies according to which tradition you believe. His name was Pasquino and he possessed a biting wit and an ability to compose epigrams—short pieces of verse with a whip in their tails. On the statue he is supposed to have placed his poems satirizing the events and personages of the day. For this reason the statue was given the nickname Pasquino, and the verses were called *pasquinades*, from which we get *pasquinade*, meaning a lampoon, or a vicious satire.

#### SADISTIC

The Count de Sade (1740-1814), who was infamous for his misdeeds and his writings, described a situation in which a person derived pleasure from tormenting someone he loved. Such a person is called a *sadist*. The word *sadistic* is often used more broadly today to mean abnormally cruel.



## SPOONERISM

The Reverend William A. Spooner (1844-1930) was celebrated for his habit, accidental or cultivated, of transposing the first letters of words in phrases. It is reported that in conversation he referred to the well-known two-wheeled vehicle as "a well booted icicle" and to a friend's new cottage as a "merry little cock." And they say that he would startle listeners at his sermons by referring to "scarful shodders" or assuring them that something was as easy as for "a camel to go through the knot of an idol."

## THESPIAN

Thespian is an overworked word meaning an actor. Thespis is often called the Father of Greek tragedy. Until his time (about 535 B.C.), dramatic presentations in Greece consisted of singing by a chorus. He is supposed to have invented the role of the first actor by having a member of the chorus step out and carry on a dialogue with the rest of the chorus.

## TITIAN

This adjective is formed from the name of the great Venetian painter Titan, or Tiziano Vecellio (1477-1576). The word *titian* describes the color of hair he liked to paint, variously described as ashen, bright golden ashen, red, and reddish brown.

## WORDS FROM NAMES IN BOOKS

Writers like to use words that come from books because they are verbal short cuts. For example a person who has his finger in every pie is called a *Prok-Bok*, after W. S. Gilbert's character, who held a half dozen official posts at one time.

The words we list here are associated with the names of persons or places in books. We have selected those of moderate difficulty and common occurrence.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### BANQUET

The Banquettes were a wealthy family in *The Arabian Nights*. One of them invited a beggar to a banquet at which he made a pretense of serving costly food. The beggar fell in with the joke and pretended to enjoy the nonexistent dishes. Finally, Banquettes rewarded him with a real feast. A Banquet banquet or feast is an illusion of plenty. Banquet means unreal.

### BONIFACE

This word has become the secret word for an innkeeper or hotel owner who is a genial and jolly host, as was the original Boniface, a character in George Farquhar's *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1707).

### CHAUVINISM

Nicholas Chauvin was supposed to have been a soldier in Napoleon's army. After the downfall of his emperor, Chauvin displayed such exaggerated loyalty and patriotism that he was held up to ridicule. In 1831 the Cogswell brothers wrote a play, *Le Cocarde Tricolore*, in which a young recruit named Chauvin sang couplets expressing enthusiasm for national supremacy and military glory. The word chauvinism coming from the character in the play means exaggerated patriotism or jingoism, which also has an interesting story to tell.

*Ey Bago* was a magician's expression which was taken over in popular English speech to show strong affirmation. It became famous through its use in a music-hall song of 1874. In that year Disraeli sent a fleet into Turkish waters to "con tair" the Russians against the Turks. The words of the song supported Disraeli's policy:

We don't want to fight, but, by Bago  
If we do,  
We've got the ships, we've got the men,  
We've got the money too.

*Jingoism*, like *chauvinism*, is a term for strong national feeling, and a *jingoist* is a person who favors a belligerent attitude toward foreign powers.

#### GARGANTUA

Gargantua is the eponymous hero of the first part of *Gargantua and Pantagruel* by François Rabelais (1494-1553). He is a gigantic large-mouthed king with an appetite to match. Anything on a large scale is therefore *gargantuan*. Writers, especially Hollywood press agents, are beginning to prefer this word to *colossal* and *mammoth*, which have lost their force, especially in a climate where olives are officially graded according to these standard sizes: medium, large, larger, mammoth, giant, jumbo, colossal, and supercolossal. From Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, we get a tongue twister to denote huge size, *brobdingnagian*. The natives of Brobdingnag were as "tall as church steeples."

#### LILLIPUTIAN

The hero of *Gulliver's Travels* was wrecked on the shores of a country whose inhabitants were only six inches tall. Lilliputian naturally means diminutive, miniature. The tiny descendants of the hardy nation of Lilliput have been brought back to life in T. H. White's delightful fantasy, *Mistress Masham's Repose*.

#### MALAPROPOS

The audience of the 1770's laughed at Mrs. Malaprop's misbanding of words in Sheridan's *The Rivals*. From her name we get the word *malapropism*, which describes what countless comedians do to English words for a laugh. A *malapropism* is a grotesque confusion of words, a verbal blunder.

It comes from the French phrase *mal à propos*, inappropriate.

## MRS. GRINDY

"What will Mrs. Grindy say?" is a question often asked when a matter of taste or conduct is being discussed. Who is this mysterious Mrs. Grindy, the personification of social tyranny and conventions? Actually, she never existed even in the play which gave us her name. In 1798, Thomas Morton wrote *Speed the Plough*, in which a certain Dame Ashfield always wonders what her imaginary neighbor, Mrs. Grindy, will say: "If shame should come to the poor child, I say, Tamma, what will Mrs. Grindy say then?"

## PANJANDRUM

In 1775, to test the boasted memory of Charles Macklin, who asserted that he could repeat anything he had heard or read once, Samuel Foote made up some nonsense lines, of which the concluding section follows:

"So he died, and she very speedily married the baron;  
and then were present the Pompadour, and the Jobbiter, and  
the Chrysalis, and the great Panjandrum himself, with the  
little red button at top, and they all fell to playing the game  
of catch as catch can, till the gunpowder ran out at the back  
of their boots."

Samuel Foote's coinage, *panjandrum* (*pan*, Greek, meaning all, plus a Latin-sounding ending), has proved a sturdy one. Today *panjandrum* is used humorously or mockingly of any inflated or powerful person.

## QUINTONIC

If we refer to a person as *quintonic*, we are politely dismissing him as an unrealistic visionary, one whose heart is bigger than his head. We got the word from Cervantes' great uncle on a once-flourishing knighthood that was going to seed. Do *Quixote de la Mancha*, the eponymous hero, was a would-be

knight whose excited imagination turned lonely lions into castles and windmills into fearsome giants.

# ROBOT

In 1923 Karel Capek, a Czech playwright, wrote a celebrated and terrifying play. Its title, *R.U.R.*, stands for Rossum's Universal Robots, the robots being a symbol of the machine age, mechanical monsters in human form who turn upon their masters. Derived from the Slavic word *robota*, meaning work, the word *robot* has become very useful in describing an automaton or a human being who has become so mechanized that he has lost his soul. (See p. 162).

# RODOMONTADE

Rodomont or Rodomonte (the name means "Toll a mountain" in Italian), a Moorish king in Ariosto's epic, *Orlando Furioso*, is brave but boastful. He has given his name to *rodomontade*, meaning boasting, blustering, and bragging. These qualities appear also in the word *braggadocio*, from *braggadocio*, a character in Spenser's *Fairie Queene*.

# TRADITIONAL

The Romans had their idea of a *braggadocio* and *Rodomont*, too. He was *Thraso*, a blustering soldier in Terence's play, *The Eunuch*, who was full of what Dr. Watson called "brag and bounce." In Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Rosalind refers to "Caesar's threatened brag of 'I came, I saw, I overcame.'"

# UTOPIAN

In 1516 Sir Thomas More wrote a book about an ideal state. Book and place bore the title *Utopia*, which means

**Utopia.** (*U* is from *ou*, a Greek negative, and *top* is from *topos*, place.) When, 250 years later, Samuel Butler wrote his novel of another utopia, he sought another language. He just spelled the word "nowhere" backwards and called his book *Literbaw*. *Literbaw* is a synonym for quagmire; it carries the idea of impractical, unobtainable, impossible, visionary, chimerical, ideal but unattainable.

## YAHOO

In Gulliver's *Travels*, the Yahoos are a tribe of brutes having the form of men and embodying all the vices of mankind. So, yahoo is an uncomplimentary term designating a lout, a ruffian, a brute, a degraded specimen of mankind.

## WORDS OUT OF THE BIBLE

In the United States each year, about three million copies of the Bible are sold. Nevertheless, the complaint is often heard that people do not know references to the Bible when they are made. To help reduce such complaints, we are listing a few words of Biblical origin formed from names, along with the texts in which the names appear.

## ANANIAS

The Ananias Club is a group of men who come together to tell tall stories. Ananias lied to Peter about his gift for the common fund.

But, Peter said, Ananias, . . . thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost . . .

Acts 5: 3, 4

## ARMAGEDDON

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.

Revelation 16: 16

Armageddon is a place where the forces of good and evil met to fight a great battle. It is used to mean a final, decisive conflict.

## BEHEMOTH

In Hebrew this is the word for a large animal.

Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he stretcheth out as an oak . . . his bones are like bars of iron.

Job 40: 15, 19

Some think that the hippopotamus was referred to, at any rate, the word behemoth is used to designate a large, massive animal and is figuratively applied to a "half of a man."

## JEHU

This word gets its meaning of coachman or driver from a line in the Bible:

. . . and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he drives furiously.

II Kings 19: 20

## JEHU ROUNDS UP DOBBIN

So reads the headline of a story in the *Ronald Tabern*, telling of a taxi driver who caught a runaway horse. The word *jehu* is generally used humorously and ironically. O. Henry in "A Municipal Report" writes, "When the hack had come from rattling and the weary quadrupeds came to a rest, I headed my *jehu* his fifty cents with an additional quarter." And Hector Berlioz, in his *Memoirs* tells about being in a "crawling coach" with "a *jehu* who could not speak a word of French."

JEEREMIAH

A *jeeremial* is a tale of woe, a continued lament, a bitter denunciation of sorrow over a nation's woes. The word is formed from the name of the prophet Jeremiah, whose lament for Jerusalem and Zion is contained in the book of the Old Testament, the Lamentations of Jeremiah, which begins,

How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

JEZEBEL

A wicked abandoned woman is sometimes called a *jezabel*. The original was the wife of King Ahab of Israel. She introduced the worship of the foreign god Baal, persecuted the prophet Elijah, and instigated the murder of Naboth. She was finally slain by Jehu and her body was thrown to the dogs.

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezabel heard of it; and she painted her face, and dressed her head, and looked out at a window . . . And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down . . .

II Kings 9: 30, 33

MAGDALEN

This word comes to us from the name of Mary Magdalene, who watched the sepulcher of Christ:

There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene . . .

Mark 15: 40

The British pronounce *Magdalene* of Magdalen College at Oxford, and *Magdalene* of Magdalene College at Cambridge as if the names were writing *maadlen*. The adjective has come to mean usefully sentimental, because Italian paintings of Mary Magdalene usually show her weeping. John Ruskin speaks of "a smooth Magdalene of Carlo Della with a tear in each cheek."



NIMROD

This is a term for a hunter, which, like *yaku*, is often used humorously. Nimrod was the grandson of Ham, a son of Noah:

He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.  
Genesis 10: 9

WORDS ALL OVER THE MAP

Many materials and articles are named after places associated with their manufacture or sale. The name of the town of Cambrai is found in *cambrie*, like in *like*, and Nimes in *denim* (originally *serge de Nîmes*). Sometimes the place-name is more clearly seen as when a type of steel is called Damascus or Toledo, and a style of furniture is known as Grand Rapids. However, whether the name of the place is easy to see or not, the meanings of most words coming from place-names are fairly obvious. Again we have selected those that are a little more unusual.

ANTIMACASSAR

The harbor of Macassar on the island of Celebes is considered one of the most beautiful in the world. The English blades and dandies of the early 19th century used a hair lotion which its manufacturers advertised as containing ingredients from Macassar. In 1842 Samuel Lever, author of *Handy Andy*, wrote:

"He ran his fingers through his Macassar-oiled ringlets. However, when a well greased head leaned back against Victorian chairs or sofas, the aftereffects were not pretty. To protect their furniture women began to crochet little square coverings, which, because they were used against the "Macassar-oiled ringlets," were called antimacassars.

ARGENT

The picturesque city of Dubrovnik on the Dalmatian coast was known as Ragusa before World War I. As Ragusa, centuries earlier, it had achieved a fame equal to that of Venice. The tall merchant ship of Ragusa was called at first a "ragusye" and later an argosy. Argosy has become a poetic word for a stately sailing vessel. Shakespeare speaks of "argosies with portly sail," and Tennyson, looking into the future, describes the merchant ships of the air as "argosies of magic sail."

BILLOQUATE

From the poetry of argosy, we travel to the gutter prose and verbal slurs of billoquate. The Billingsgate was one of the old gates of the city of London. The fishmarket was located here and the reference to the language used by the fishwives indicate that it was rough, coarse, and scurrilous. Therefore, billoquate refers to foul, abusive language.

CANONIA

To go to Canonia means to humiliate oneself. The powerful Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV once defied Pope Gregory VII. The Pope excommunicated him, and the Emperor's supporters began to abandon him. Henry IV then made a pilgrimage in January, 1077, to the village of Canonia, Italy, where the Pope was then staying. For three days the Emperor stood bareheaded and barefoot in the snow and did penance until the Pope received him. A Canone is, therefore, a scene or place of humiliation and submission.

MEANDER

The Meander (Maeander in Greek) is a river in Asia Minor noted since ancient times for its winding course. Meander, the English word formed from its ancient Greek name, means to twist and turn, to wander aimlessly.

## MECCA

Mecca in Arabia is the birthplace of Mohammed, the holy city of the Moslems. A *mecca* is a goal, an object desired by many persons. *Hajira*, from an Arabic word meaning flight, is connected with Mecca. It refers specifically to the flight made by Mohammed from Mecca in 622 A.D. because his opinions were unpopular in that city. A *hajira* is an exodus, a mass migration, a trek.

## SARDONIC

This word is supposed to come from the name of a poisonous plant growing on the island of Sardinia. This plant, known to the Romans as *herba Sardonica*, contorted the face of its victim into a grim laugh (*rurus sardonicus*) that became fixed at death. A *sardonic* smile or laugh, therefore, has no joy in it, only scorn and bitterness.

## SERENDIPITY

*Serendip* is a form of the old Arabic name of the island of Ceylon. In a letter written on January 18, 1754, Horace Walpole tells that he coined the word *serendipity* from the title of a story, "The Three Princes of Serendip," the heroes of which "were always making discoveries, by accident and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of." Hence, *serendipity* is the ability to make lucky finds, the gift or faculty of making unexpected and happy discoveries by accident.

An editorial in the New York Times of May 24, 1961 contained some pertinent comments on *serendipity* in connection with Commander Shepard's suborbital flight to the edge of space:

## Space and Serendipity

Dr. Bush knows very well that many of the greatest scientific discoveries were made by what is known as "serendipity."

a word meaning the "finding of valuable or appreciable things not sought for"—in other words, by chance. The discovery of America is an outstanding example of serendipity. Other examples are the chance discovery of penicillin and of nuclear fission.

### I. Can You Correct Mrs. Malaprop?

Here are some samples of Mrs. Malaprop's crudity in words. The misused words are italicized. What should she have said? Each dot represents a letter. Answers for these tests will be found on page 167.

1. Now don't attempt to *subvane* yourself from the matter.

1 . . . . .

2. Promise to forget the fellow—to *skaraw* him, I say, quite from your memory.

2 . . . . .

3. Nay, no *delusions* to the poet.

3 . . . . .

4. I would by no means wish a daughter of mine to be a *progeny* of learning.

4 . . . . .

5. I hope you will present her to the Captain as an object not altogether *disgible*.

5 . . . . .

6. I am sorry to say, Sir Anthony, that my *affluence* over my nose is very small.

6 . . . . .

7. She's as headstrong as an *allegory* on the banks of the Nile.

7 . . . . .

8. I would have her *middle* with Quack or Hiccup, or Alopeke, or such *inflamatory* branches of learning.

8 . . . . .

9. There, Sir, an attack upon my language! What do you think of that? An aspersion upon my parts of speech! Was ever such a brain! Sure if I expressed anything in this world, it is the use of my grander tongue, and a nice arrangement of syllables.

9 (a) . . . . . of . . . . .

9 (b) . . . . .

9 (c) . . . . .

9 (d) . . . . .

10. Then, Sir, she should have only a superficial knowledge in accounts; and as she grew up, I would have her instructed in geometry that she might know something of the compass countries—but above all, Sir Anthony, she should be mistress of orthodoxy, that she might not mispell, and mispronounce words as shamefully as girls usually do.

10 (a) . . . . .

10 (b) . . . . .

10 (c) . . . . .

10 (d) . . . . .

### *B. A Shakespeare Gallery*

The names of some characters in Shakespeare's plays are used almost as common nouns. For example, an  *Ariel*, from *The Tempest*, designates an airy spirit. See whether you can match the character on the left with the description on the right.

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Benedict (Benedick) | a. fat, jolly person             |
| 2. Dogberry            | b. woman lawyer                  |
| 3. Falstaff            | c. blustering petty official     |
| 4. Portia              | d. bridegroom                    |
| 5. Puck                | e. mischief-maker, impish spirit |

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### III. How Well Do You Know Your Dickens?

The following expressions have become part of the English language. They all come from the names and characters, or from phrases in Dickens' novels. Match them with the terms on the right.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Pickwickian sense   | a. hypocrisy                            |
| 2. King Charles's head | b. optimistic waiting for               |
| 3. Barnabedon          | c. something to turn up                 |
| 4. Microbaron          | d. repeated phrase or reply             |
| 5. Pickenistery        | e. special meaning to suit the occasion |

### IV. The Familiar Things From the Bible

You can turn to an unabridged dictionary or better still to the pages of the Bible for the meanings of these words and phrases commonly used in English:

coat of many colors, walls of Jericho, phylactery, man of porridge, Gideon's army, hawking on the wall, widow's mite, jerking Pileus, a Daniel come to judgment, the street which is called Straight, whited sepulcher, scapegoat, Phylotus, Gadarene swine, a Lazarus, Gehazi, good Samaritan, Babel.

### V. Dictionary and Literary Treasure Hunt

You'll often meet the following real or fictitious names of persons and places and the words or phrases coming from them. How many of them can you identify or define? You'll find them in an unabridged dictionary.

Enoch Arden, Sworen, Tartuffe, Tommy Atkins, Slough of Despond, Delectable Mountains, drowsy, union-pun, Lollufo, daguerotype, grangerize, comstockery, nautypandy, Simon Legree, Pollyanna, Blomfield laughter, kalamata.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

### *III. How Well Do You Know Your Dickens?*

The following expressions have become part of the English language. They all come from the names and characters or from phrases in Dickens' novels. Match them with the terms on the right.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Pallidonian nose    | a. hypocrisy                           |
| 2. King Charles's head | b. optimistic waiting for              |
| 3. Humbugism           | c. something to turn up                |
| 4. Micawberism         | d. repeated phrase or topic            |
| 5. Pecksniffery        | e. special swearing to end the account |

### *IV. The Familiar Things From the Bible*

You can turn to an unabridged dictionary or better still to the pages of the Bible for the meanings of these words and phrases commonly used in English:

coat of many colors, walls of Jericho, pharisees, men of sorrows, Gideon's army, handwriting on the wall, widow's son, setting Plute, a David come to judgment, the street which is called Straight, wheel repeller, scapegoat, Phineas, Gadara's man, a Lazarus, Golath, good Samaritan, Rebel.

### *V. Dictionary and Library Treasure Hunt*

You'll often meet the following real or fictitious names of persons and places and the words or phrases coming from them. How many of them can you identify or define? You'll find them in an unabridged dictionary.

Enoch Arden divorce, Tartuffian, Tommy Atkins, Scrag of Despond, Deliciable Mountain, slavery, since-pure, Lathario, daguerreotype, grungeless, cornstockery, sambo-panty, Susan Lagree, Pollyanna, Hemorio laughter, inter-ellum.



"'E plathas want' . . . 'E plathas want' . . . what's the matter . . . can't you speak English?" \*

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## 21. Translation, Please: Ancient Languages

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SO MANY authors insist on using foreign words that sometimes even publications protest. In an editorial entitled "Translation, Please," appearing in *Collier's*, September 13, 1947,

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\* Drawing reproduced courtesy the Saturday Review.



the following complaint was made:

We will now register a loud, unadorned rasp against a habit in which some erudite authors persist in indulging, and for which we can find no justification.

What we're squawking about is the practice of ransacking foreign-language words and phrases into the text of a book without furnishing translations into English in parentheses or footnotes.\*

Collier's mentioned by name two authors "who have the same annoying habit."

Then the editorial continued:

We do mean annoying. Very few Americans have a working knowledge of Greek, Latin, French, and German. That is no doubt regrettable, but it is a fact. If the author thinks he is paying readers a delicate compliment by neglecting to translate his verbal jewels out in foreign tongue, he's mistaken. Our own doubtless unrequited feeling is that he's merely trying to show us how erudite he is and how dumb we are.

Let's have translations, please, in all such cases from now on, so that all the customers can tell what the author is talking about all the time. What does a man write for, anyway, if not to get his whole meaning across to anybody who reads anything he writes?

But Collier's itself, in spite of its own complaint, did not follow a policy of translating foreign phrases used in its pages. A reader complained that on the same page on which this editorial appeared, another editorial writer had used the phrase *quod pro quo* without a translation. Collier's facetiously replied in Latin and without a translation, "Incognatus sumus," or "We are not conversant."

It is not, however, a matter of consistency. The points made by the writer of the editorial, "Translations, Please," are excellent. Foreign-language quotations and phrases should not be used merely to display erudition and they should not confuse the reader. However, as the use of *quod pro quo* indicates, there are many foreign phrases and words which do useful service and which feel at home in the English language.

a—ha, ä—häs, å—häng, ä—Mr, o—hen, å—hl, i—hi, i—hids, o—hot, ä—höns, ä—höm, u—hu, ä—höge, ä—hörs, ä—höod, @—höön, ee—cet, ci—oil, ag—dag, rag—finger, th—then, th—thes, th—vices, and a which equals a in dupl, c in modpl, i in pappl, e in method, u in circus, or y in marry.

\*Reprinted by permission of Collier's, The National Weekly.





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TRANSLATION PLEASE, ANCIENT LANGUAGES

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**AD NAUSEAM** (ad nă'shem or nă'zeam)

To a sickening or disgusting degree. *Nausea* originally meant sickness.

**ALTER EGO** (ă'lter ēgō)

a second self, a bosom friend.

**\*AMICUS CURIAE** (am'ikəs kyoo'rē)

"A friend of the court"; a person who voluntarily or at the request of a judge gives advice or presents a brief in a case in which he is not legally involved.

**ANNUS MIRABILIS** (an'nos miră'b'lis)

"A wonderful year"; a year in which great events take place.

**ANTE BELLUM** (an'tē bell'am)

"Before the war"; applied especially to the period before the American Civil War.

**\*A POSTERIORI** (ă post'eriō'ri)

Reasoning based on observed facts, applied to conclusions arrived at after (post) the study of the facts; inductive reasoning, opposed to a *proof*.

**\*A PRIORI** (ă priō'ri)

Reasoning based on general principles, not supported by factual study.

**\*ARS GRATIA ARTIS** (ărs gră'tiās ăr'tis)

"Art for art's sake"; motto of MGM Films, used when Leo the Lion roars. Bernard Shaw must have believed that this motto typifies the spirit of the movie industry. A magnate who asked him for permission to film *Pygmalion* asserted, "I don't care if the picture does lose money. I'm thinking only of its success to art."

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a—hat, i—hite, ē—hire, ē—hur, a—hee, ē—hē, i—hat, ē—hite,  
o—hei, o—hine, ē—hine u—hut, ē—hūp, ē—hūv, ē—hūd,  
ē—hūe, ou—out, ol—ol, ēg—egg, ēgg—lager, th—thū,  
th—thē, th—vise, and : which equals a in *dog*, a in *modd*,  
i in *pepp*, o in *method*, u in *circu*, or y in *mercy*.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

shew answered, "That's the difference between us. You think of nothing but art, and I think of nothing but money."

**ARGUMENTUM AD HOMINEM** (ar-gu-men'tum ad hom'i-nem)

"An argument to a man (or person)"; an appeal to emotion rather than to facts. "In the 'Provincial Letters' Pascal used the argumentum ad hominem—which means that he called his opponents everything but honest slaves" (HTE)

**BONA FIDE** (bo'no-f'i-de)

"In good faith"; without fraud. *Bona fide* means good faith; honesty; freedom from fraud or deceit.

**\*CAUSA BELLI** (ka'usa be'li)

Event or situation used as a pretext for going to war; a cause of war.

**\*CAVEAT EMPTOR** (ka'veat emp'tor)

"Let the buyer beware"; a legal phrase implying that the purchaser buys at his own risk.

**\*CORPUS DELICTI** (kor'pus delik'ti)

"The body of the crime." A legal phrase meaning evidence to prove that a crime has been committed. Often the phrase is mistakenly understood to mean the body of a murdered victim.

**QUI PRO?** (ki or kw'i pro'no)

"For whose good?" First used by a Roman magistrate to indicate that in every crime one must look for the person who stands to gain by it. Although "For what good?" is an erroneous translation, the Latin phrase is popularly used in that sense.

a—hat, ä—hite, ä—hire, ä—bär, a—haz, ä—hä, ä—hit, 7—hide,  
o—hot, ö—höre, ö—höre, u—hut, ö—höge, ö—höre, ö—hood,  
ö—höe, u—out, ö—oil, ug—ung, ug—finger, ö—öte,  
th—thee, th—vise, and a which equals a in öpi, ö in mödd,  
i in pupi, o in methed, u in crepe, or 7 in merly.





\*PANEL DISCUSSION (with dignitaries)

Beneath one's dignity; colloquially shortened to *infra* *die*.

24. 1000 patients (in 1000 patients)

"In the place of a parent", acting as guardian.

• **Agreement** (to indicate verb)

"into the middle of things": starting in the middle of a story, without preambles.

2001 2002 2003 2004 (to 2005)

to the matter of, concerning, in reference to.

1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808 2809 2810 2811 2812

"In place", in its original place; a term used in geology and archaeology.

1998-1999

Enter the code 000000

2017-2018 (on web '08)

"in a vacuum"; without reference to surroundings;  
without regard for reality.

1998 2000 (1998-2000)

"He himself said it"; an assertion to be taken on authority.

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### A view of the forecast

RESEARCH OFFICE (continued)

"A great work", manuscript, 2nd format, crowding  
schonzeit.

[illegible]



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

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\***MARE NOSTRUM** (mā'ōs nō'strūm)

"Our Sea." The Romans looked upon the Mediterranean as their private lake and therefore called it "Mare Nostrum."

\***MIRABILIS DICTU** (mir'ib'il dī'ktū)

"Wonderful to tell"; "believe it or not."

\***MODUS OPERANDI** (mō'dūs op'erand'i)

"Manner or way of working"; a working agreement.

\***MODUS VIVENDI** (mō'dūs vī'vend'i)

"Manner of living"; temporary agreement; a way of getting along with another person or nation despite basic differences.

\***NIHIL PLUS ULTRA** (nī'plus ū'ltrā)

"Not more beyond"; the highest point of perfection.

**NON CONCORDA MENTIS** (nōn kōn'pōr mēnt'is)

"Not in control of one's mind"; not of sound mind. Samuel Johnson suggested that *nonconformity*, a fool, simpleton, blockhead, or ninny, was derived from the Latin phrase, but modern etymologists reject this idea and believe that *nonconformity* is a nonsense word of fanciful formation.

**NON SEQUITUR** (nōn sē'wītūr)

"It does not follow." Applied to remarks or conclusions which don't have a logical connection with what has gone before.

---

a—bat, ā—bāt, ē—bēa, ē—bēr, o—bōa, ē—bē, ī—bī, ī—bīle,  
o—bō, ē—bōm, ē—bōm, o—bō, ē—bōp, ē—bōm, ē—bōd,  
ē—bōle, o—bōt, o—bōt, ē—bōp, ē—bōp, ē—bōp,  
ē—bōm, ē—bōm, and a which equals a in dīp, a in mōdēl,  
i in pōpēl, o in mēthōd, a in dōp, or y in mēgē.



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Figure 1. Figure 1 (continued)

At first view; on first appearance, on the surface.

THE ABOVE PUBLISHED (partially or published)

"For the public good": a favorite signature of writers of letters to the editor.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

For the time being, temporary; often shortened to *pro* form.

100% (Level 4 or Level 5)

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

enum muso (band 1000)

"What now?" a question is, therefore, a *post-p*.

0000 100 000 David and Beth

"Something for something"; in for tat; an equivalent exchange.

**REPRINTS AVAILABLE** (Newspaper/Books)

1. **Introduction**  
 2. **Background**  
 3. **Methodology**  
 4. **Results**  
 5. **Conclusion**  
 6. **References**

■ **purpose** *purpose* (inflectional)

"A rare bird"; an unusual specimen; an extraordinary person.

\*REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

"A reduction to the absurd", a train of reasoning in which a proposition is proved false by arguing it to an obviously false, ridiculous, or absurd conclusion, carrying an argument to logical extremes.

[illegible]



\***VOX MANUS** (vok'it mán'kus)

"Go with me"; a handbook or manual; a book carried as a constant companion.

\***VOX POPULI** (voks pop'ulí)

One half of the expression, *Vox populi, vox Dei*, "The voice of the people is the voice of God," which is further abbreviated to *vox pop*. Like *pro bono publico* it is a favorite signature of writers of letters to the editor.

## ABBREVIATIONS FROM LATIN

Many abbreviations of Latin words and phrases have become established in English. We are listing some of the most common ones which offer vocabulary difficulties.

**AD LIB.** for *ad libitum*

At will; at pleasure; to improvise; to add numbers to a program extemporaneously. On stage, radio, and TV, it means interpolating words not appearing in the script, but radio comedians will readily admit that their *ad lib*s are often written in for them. Once Milton Berle was throwing in a couple of thoughts of his own when to the radio audience was a genuine *ad lib*. "I wanted to begin to stumble badly over his words. His apology to *ad lib*," he explained, "but it wasn't written on the paper."

**C. or ca.** for *circa*

About; approximately; as ca. 1800.

**CF.** for *confer*

Compare; check with.

**E.G.** for *exempli gratia*

For example.

---

a—bet, b—bet, k—bire, l—bir, o—ben, p—bá, s—bá, t—bide,  
o—bet, b—bore, d—bore, g—bet, i—bá, k—bá, co—bore,  
ch—bá, cu—out, cu—ed, cu—ing, cu—bore, th—bá,  
th—bore, th—vire, and a which equals a in digi, e in model,  
i in pagé, o in method, u in cura, or y in margin.

---

TRANSLATION, PLEASE: ANCIENT LANGUAGES

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ET AL. for *et alii* or *alii*:  
And others.

ETC. for *et cetera*:  
And the rest; and so forth; never write or say "and  
et cetera."

ET SEQ. for *et sequens*, *et sequentes*, *et sequentes*:  
And the following.

REV. for *verso*:  
On the back of the page.

IN, INM. for *ibidem*:  
In the same place, passage, or book.

ID. for *idem*:  
The same, the same author.

IE. for *id est*:  
That is.

INF. for *infra*:  
Below.

IN LOC. CIT. for *in loco citato*:  
In the place cited or mentioned.

IN OP. CIT. for *in opere citato*

In the work cited.

L.S. for *locus sigilli*:

The place of the seal. L.S. is still printed on many legal forms next to the place for the signature as a carry-over from the days when a seal in wax or an impression was placed on the document to give it full legal force.

---

a—bat, b—bite, c—cite, d—bat, e—bat, f—bat, g—bat, h—bat, i—bat, j—bat, k—bat, l—bat, m—bat, n—bat, o—bat, p—bat, q—bat, r—bat, s—bat, t—bat, u—bat, v—bat, w—bat, x—bat, y—bat, z—bat, and a which equals a in figs. r is equal to a in figs. s is equal to a in figs. t is equal to a in figs. u is equal to a in figs. v is equal to a in figs. w is equal to a in figs. x is equal to a in figs. y is equal to a in figs. z is equal to a in figs.

---

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

---

**N.B.** for *note bene*:

Note well, pay special attention.

**NOL. PROS.** for *nolle prosequi*:

To be unwilling to prosecute. *Nol-pros* is an English word formed from this phrase. "The case was nol-prosessed."

**OP.** for *oper*:

A work; a term usually applied to a medical composition.

**OP. CIT.** for *oper citatus*:

The work cited or mentioned before.

**PRX.** for *proximo* (month):

In or of the next month.

**Q.V.** for *quod vide*:

Which see; look this up.

**R.** for *recipe*:

Take; an order at the head of a prescription. The symbol *R* is also believed to come from  $\Upsilon$ , the sign of Jupiter, whose favor was once asked to bring about an effective cure.

**S.C.** for *scilicet*:

It is permitted to know; to wit; understood.

**ST.** for *stat*:

Let it stand; do not change or take out. The opposite is *d.* or *dele*, written *Δ*: destroy or take out.

**SUP.** for *super*:

Above.

---

a—bat, ð—bath, ð—bare, a—bar, a—ben, ð—bt, i—bt, i—bids, o—bot, ð—bloss, ð—blow, u—bat, ð—bogs, ð—blow, ð—broad, ð—bald, oo—out, oo—out, oo—dog, egg—finger, th—this, th—dun, th—vane, and a which equals a in dip, c in modpl, i in popl, o in method, u in crops, or y in martyr.

- T.I.D.** for *ter in die*  
Three times a day, a term found in prescription.
- ULT.** for *ultimo* (reverse):  
In or of the last month.
- VIE.** for *velicent*:  
It is permitted to see; namely, to wit. The *v* is a type of shorthand used by scribes of former centuries to show an abbreviation like the *x* of *ex* for *exone(s)*
- VS.** for *versus*:  
Against.

## GREEK

Thousands of words used in the sciences, especially in medicine, are borrowed directly from Greek or are formed by adding together Greek roots and words. The process is still going on, and these words are fully naturalized even if they are as new as the daily paper. You'll find such words treated elsewhere in the book. Here we are stopping for only two expressions which you'll frequently encounter in English.

### **EUREKA** (yoo'ka)

"I have found it!" Archimedes, the ancient scientist of Syracuse, Sicily, is supposed to have run through the streets shouting, "Eureka," after he had discovered a method of finding the exact amount of gold in a crown. This discovery led to the formulation of the principles of flotation. Eureka is a city of triumph. Appropriately, it is the motto of California where gold was once found in a different way.

### **HOI POLLOI** (hoi poloi')

"The many"; applied to the masses, the people. It is not considered good form to put "the" in front of *hoi polloi*, since *hoi* already means "the" in Greek.

We are not going to give you cause to complain about the use of foreign words. We'll give you the translations of the



# I. Translation, Please

italicized words and expressions used in the sentences below. However, you'll have to pick out the correct translation from the group below each sentence. Answers for these tests will be found on page 167.

1. Spac (Stanard) does everything with a football but swallow it. And he has a great older ego in Buddy Young, who blocks almost as well as he runs.

- (a) rival (b) substitute (c) double (d) helper

2. By their refusal they have ipso facto signified themselves as resolute oppositionists.

- (a) without doubt (b) by the very act (c) obstinately (d) however

3. For by this, it is reasoned that the magnetism of the Roosevelt era, the Wagner Act, was in effect resulted.

- (a) masterpiece (b) situation (c) early work (d) compromise

4. The United States declined to work on this basis and the commission was adjourned *ad hoc*.

- (a) immediately (b) without sitting a day (c) without dissent (d) by voice vote

5. Book reviews do tend to be cluttered up with *obiter dicta*.

- (a) side remarks (b) prophecies (c) dull writing (d) small details

# II. These Are Familiar

The expressions in the left-hand column are among the most frequently met Latin phrases or words in English. Match them with the definitions on the right.

1. *ex jure*

a. here and there

2. *ad hoc*

b. unique

## TRANSLATION, PLEASE: ANCIENT LANGUAGES

1. PER SE	a. it doesn't follow
4. PRIMUM	d. in good faith
5. PRIMA PRIMA	e. entirely
6. PRIMA QUA PRIMA	f. legally
7. STATUS QUO	g. in itself
8. NON-CURANT	h. indispensable condition
9. NON PRIMA	i. present condition
10. NON SEQUITUR	j. at first glance

### III. Latin Shorthand

From the expression after the letters, select the one which best completes the statement after the numbers.

1. The abbreviation *N.B.* means (a) not good (b) take out (c) note carefully (d) new books.
2. *Prox.* is most generally read as an abbreviation for (a) approximately (b) next month (c) proxy (d) last month.
3. The abbreviation *e.g.* means (a) in regard to (b) namely (c) for example (d) English goods.
4. The abbreviation *i.e.* means (a) that is (b) look up (c) in reference to (d) always.
5. *Cf.* instructs you (a) to look on the reverse side (b) to compare (c) to cross out (d) to be careful.

### IV. So You're Speaking Latin

Hundreds of Latin words have been borrowed directly with little or no change of spelling, or new Latin words have

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

been formed in English on ancient examples. Sometimes the meaning has been changed to fit modern times. You're speaking Latin every time you use any of the words in the left-hand column. Match them with the meanings in the right-hand column.

### A

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. atomuscula   | a. small quantity      |
| 2. incunabula   | b. beginnings          |
| 3. disideratum  | c. without preparation |
| 4. facinus      | d. gap                 |
| 5. impedimenta  | e. secretary           |
| 6. inopropitius | f. something wanted    |
| 7. incensabula  | g. customs             |
| 8. lacuna       | h. man of all work     |
| 9. modicum      | i. hindrances          |
| 10. moros       | j. mental increase     |

### B

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. cadaver     | a. favorite remedy                      |
| 2. oragories   | b. puzzle                               |
| 3. conspectus  | c. period between change of governments |
| 4. ordo        | d. moving force                         |
| 5. interregnum | e. heap                                 |
| 6. scopula     | f. tiny particle                        |
| 7. incipit     | g. corpse                               |

# TRANSLATION, PLEASE: ANCIENT LANGUAGES

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. acron      | k. general survey       |
| 9. apteron    | l. belief               |
| 10. scintilla | j. most favorable point |

## F. And You're Speaking Greek Too?

What we said about Latin words is true of many Greek words in English. Match the words in the left-hand column with the definitions in the right-hand column.

### A

- |                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. ACME        | a. root; used with alpha to mean the |
| 2. ARON        | b. beginning and end                 |
| 3. APOSTROPHOS | c. glory                             |
| 4. APOSTROPHOS | d. mark of disgrace                  |
| 5. DIALAPHE    | e. riddle                            |
| 6. EPISTEMA    | f. highest point                     |
| 7. EPTERON     | g. idealization                      |
| 8. KATHOS      | h. complete range of ideas           |
| 9. CHRONA      | i. long period of time               |
| 10. STIGMA     | j. summary                           |
|                | k. complete opposite                 |

### B

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1. KATHOS | a. culmination |
| 2. CANON  | b. injury      |

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

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- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 3. CHASE    | c. soul, mind      |
| 4. CLIMAX   | d. previous        |
| 5. CLASH    | e. risk, creation  |
| 6. LAYMAN   | f. foundation      |
| 7. PERCH    | g. long staff      |
| 8. PERIL    | h. surrogate       |
| 9. STOLE    | i. utter confusion |
| 10. TRIVIAL | j. dictionary      |



"Of course it loses something in the translation" \*

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## 22. Translation, Please: Modern Languages

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IN A STORY in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a writer used the phrase "effulgent brouhaha." A reader unable to find it in his unabridged dictionary, wrote to ask the editor for the meaning. The editor replied, "Brouhaha is French for 'uproar'; the phrase 'effulgent brouhaha' means, roughly, 'glowing up-raise.'" We recommended using an English equivalent, but the author insisted on his French word.

There is also the story of a young British reporter who was overfond of using French words in his news stories. One day when he was writing a short piece for a Paris journal, he burst into the editorial office of his paper and demanded, "What's the bloomin' French word for 'difficile'?"

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\*Drawing reproduced courtesy New York Times Book Review

In this chapter we're going to take up a number of French, Italian, Spanish, German, and other foreign words which are blooming in our newspapers and finding permanent roots in our language.

## FRENCH

French was for many centuries the language of diplomacy and of international society and culture. It was a second language for educated people all over Europe. English is now replacing French in this respect, but in English there are hundreds of currently used words and phrases which have been borrowed from French.

Strictly speaking there are no accented syllables in French words. The last pronounced syllable in a word gets a slight upward swing which we translate as an accent. You will, therefore, notice that almost all the French words listed here are accented on the last pronounced syllable.

A final *n* or *m* after a vowel is usually not pronounced. The word *bon*, for instance, is neither *bô* nor *bôn*. The same is true about *m* or *e* inside a word, if they are not doubled and are followed by a consonant. Examples: *extensive*, *accomplish*. The *n* becomes nothing more than a slight explosive nasal sound after the vowel. We shall indicate this nasal sound by an italicized *n*, thus: *bôn*. The French *a* also gives difficulties. You can make this *a* sound properly by putting your mouth for a *u* sound and saying *â*. We shall indicate this sound thus: *â*. There is one comforting thought. We Americans do not pronounce French words the way the French do; we merely approximate their sounds.

### AGENT PROVOCATEUR (âhân' pôvôkâtô')

A person who joins an organization like a trade union or political group, pretends sympathy with their aims and excites them to commit an act for which they can be punished. This lengthy explanation shows why it is sometimes necessary to use foreign phrases in the interest of economy of expression.

---

a—hai, â—hâie, â—hîre, â—hêi, â—hên, â—hê, î—het, î—hîde, â—hôt, ô—hôte, ô—hôte, u—hut, ô—hôte, î—hîre, ôh—hood, ôh—hôte, ou—out, oi—oil, eg—ung, ung—hugot, th—tha, ôh—thet, ôh—vion, and a which equals u in *daj*, e in *model*, i in *pepi*, o in *method*, u in *crope*, or y in *martyr*.

**MEMORANDUM** (lə mɛm'orɛd')

A memorandum, in diplomacy, an outline or summary of terms of an agreement; literally, something that helps or jogs the memory.

**MOUÏS-PROPRE** (mɔ̃'is'pʁɔpʁ')

Self-love; self-esteem, vanity.

**AU COURANT** (o

kʁʁɑ̃'t')

Well up in, well informed, up to date, in touch with.

**AVANT-GARDE** (avɑ̃'gɑʁd')

Advance guard; vanguard, pioneers; offset.

**UNE NOÏE** (nɔ̃'wi)

"a black beast"; a bogbear; a pet aversion; a person who is hated and detested.

**BOITE** (bɔ̃'t)

Small wine shop, tavern; used in this country to mean saloon or bar.

**BOITE** (bɔ̃'t)

Short for *boite à nuit*, literally "night box." The circumflex accent may be dropped in English. A *boite* may be a little more elegant than a *boite*. In Paris it refers to a small dining club or a café-châlet. Establishments like the Café Espresso places in Greenwich Village are often referred to as *boites*.

**UN VIVANT** (bɔ̃'vɪvɑ̃'t')

A lover of good living; epicure, gourmet.

**CANARD** (kɑ̃'ar'd' or kɑ̃'ar')

"Duck." A canard is a silly or absurd story circulated to amuse on people's credulity; a hoax; a sensational

---

u—hut, ſ—bidis, ð—birs, ð—bar, e—ban, b—bd, i—bit, i—bide,  
o—bet, o—bides, o—bides, u—but, u—buge i—bides, ð—hood,  
ð—hude, oo—out, o—ol, eg—dag, egg—finger, ð—thut,  
ð—thes, ð—moon, and a which equals a in dag, e in model,  
i in pupil, o in method, u in crops, or y in many.



manufactured story. One explanation of its origin is that it is taken from the French expression *vendre un canard à moitié*, "to half-sell a duck." For, if one half-sells a duck, one does not sell it at all but takes somebody in or imposes upon him. Another explanation is that *canard* refers to a duck-story, a silly tale that was spread in many newspapers about the voracity of ducks, and that fooled many readers. The following headline (above a stock-market story) interestingly links newspapers and *canards*:

## NEWSPAPERS TAKE STEP TO REFUTE A CANARD

**CARTÉ BLANCHE** (kár'te blánsh)  
"A white paper", blank paper containing only a signature giving another person permission to write his own terms, blank check; unlimited authority, blanket permission.

**CASUS** cá'shús (kás'ish'v)  
Celebrated legal case, criminal case that arouses wide interest.

**CHIFF** sh'íf (shé'dí'v)  
Manuscript, a manuscript copy.

**COMME IL FAUT** (kóm'il'f)  
As it should be, properly, in good form.

**CONTRASTES** (kón'trást)  
Mixture; embarrassing moment.

**COUP DE GRACE** (kúp d' grás)  
"A blow of mercy", a final, decisive stroke; the death blow given by an executioner to end the victim's suffering, the blow with which a knight despatched his beast.

a—has, á—háse, é—blás, o—bar, ó—bás, ú—bú, í—bí, i—bís, o—hás, ó—hóse, é—bóse, u—bús, í—bíse, i—bís, ó—bód, ó—bód, ou—od, ei—el, ag—ung, egg—finger, in—chú, ís—fás, is—vase, and y which equals i in day, e in meek, s in pupil, o in method, u in cargo, or y in martyr.





FAUTE DE MEILLEUR (fô dâ myô)  
For want of something better.

FAUX PAS (fô pâ)  
"False step", mistake; social error.

FEMME FATALE (fam fataf)  
A woman who leads men to destruction; a Mata Hari;  
cf. Cleo and the Sirens of the myth.

FIN DE SIÈCLE (fan dâ syêcl)  
"End of (the) century", now generally used to indicate  
decadence; first applied to the end of the nineteenth cen-  
tury, the fabulous 1890's.

FLÂNEUR (flâne)  
Idler, an aimless stroller along the Parisian boulevards;  
therefore, an intellectual trifler, a dilettante; a boole-  
varder.

FORCE MAJEURE (fôr mâchêr)  
Superior or irresistible force; act of God.

GAFFE (gaf, rhymes with café)  
A clumsy mistake; a blunder; a howler; a faux pas.

HORS DE COMBAT (ôr dâ kômba)  
"Out of the combat", disabled; incapacitated.

IDEA FIXE (idâ fik)  
Fixed idea; obsession.

INDIFFERENCE (insôf'fêrâ, Pl. and ôôp'fêr)  
Indifference; lack of concern.

JOIE DE VIVRE (zhôvê dâ vîvr)  
"Joy of living"; a zest for life.

a—hai, â—hâ, é—hâ, o—har, e—har, ê—hê, i—hê, î—hîc,  
o—hoi, ô—houc, ô—hôm, a—hai, â—hâp, ô—hâ, ô—hoi,  
ô—hêc, ou—oi, ou—oi, ou—oi, ou—oi, ou—oi, ou—oi,  
ô—hoi, ô—hoi, ô—hoi, and a which equals a in dial, e in modg,  
i in papé, o in modg, u in ciou, or y in macy.

**Laissez-faire** (lā'sāir')

"Let [the people] do [what they choose]"; a policy of non-interference, letting things drift; the economic doctrine that the government should allow business to proceed with a minimum of regulation. The opposite is *dirigisme* or full government direction.

**Lèse-majesté** (lēz māshōn' or lēz mājēsté)

A crime against a sovereign or a sovereign power; an insult to a ruler or superior; treason.

**Mélange** (mēlānsh')

Mixture; blending; medley; meddlesome.

**Ménage** (mēnāsh')

Household, domestic establishment, family.

**Mise-en-scène** (mēzānshēn')

Scenery and property needed for a play; setting; background; milieu.

**Mobilité oblige** (mōbilité oblīzh')

"Mobility obligates." A code of behavior associated with persons of high rank; gentleness that is supposed to spring from noble birth.

**Mom de plume** (mōm dō plōm', Fr. mōm dō plēm')

Pen name, the expression *nom de guerre* is used by the French to mean any pseudonym.

**Nouveaux riches** (nōvō bōsh')

People who are newly-rich, who have suddenly come up in the world; upstarts. Other terms for the same idea are *nouveau arrivés* and *parvenus*.

a—bet, ā—bait, ā—bair, ā—bār, o—ben, ā—bēl, a—būt, i—bide, o—bōt, ō—bōm, ō—bōn, u—būt, ā—būp, ā—būr, ā—bōod, āb—būt, oo—vūt, oo—ād, ag—bīg, app—bīg, th—būn, ā—būn, āb—vūn, and a which equals a is dūl, a is modēl, i is papēl, o is mēthōd, u is cōpēl, or y is mētyōl.

**OUTRÉ** (ôwé' or ôwé')

Exaggerated; out of the ordinary; extravagant. *Hoove.*

**PEIT BOONDEEN** (pét' boondéén')

"The little man"; a member of the lower middle class.

**PIRE DE SUBSTANCE** (pye' de substan's)

The main dish or course; the chief article of a collection, the major work on a program.

**POTPOURRI** (pôp' ôôf' or potpoor')

Melley; mishmash, mixture; olio; *olie podrida*; *lar-rago*, *potpourri*; *mélange*; miscellany. How many ways there are of saying that!

**QUI VIVE** (kè' vîv')

A society's challenge equivalent to "Who goes there?" To be on the *qui vive* means to be alert.

**RAISON D'ÊTRE** (ràsh' dè'tr', Fr. dè'tr')

"Reason for being", justification.

**RAPPROCHEMENT** (ràprôshémè')

Drawing closer together; diplomatic term for the establishment of cordial relations between nations; cf. *dévisé*.

**RÉCLAME** (rèshè')

Publicity; press-agent stunt.

**RÉPONSE** (rèpôns')

Repartee; a quick answer; a fencing term meaning a quick return thrust after a parry.

a—hat, à—bâle, â—bâre, â—bâ, e—bâe, ê—bâ, i—bâi, î—bâie, o—bâi, ô—bâre, ô—bâre, u—bât, û—bâge, û—bâre, ôô—bâod, ôô—bâô, ou—côt, ôô—côt, ee—mâg, æg—finger, th—thia, th—than, th—vance, and a which equals e in dag, e in modél, i in pagé, o in method, u in crop, or y in martyr.

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## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

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**ROMAN À CLÉF** or **CLÉ** (ah' yahn ah' klé)

"Novel with a key"; a novel, which despite its author's disclaimers about "any similarity," has real people and places in it, identifiable if you have the key.

The novel in as many of its aspects a *roman à clé*. Paris is here the city of Sybarr, the German conquerors are the Armignacs, atomic scientists, poets, dancers, and political figures are easy enough to recognize.

**SANG-FROID** (sahn' froi')

"Cold blood", coolness under fire; self-possession, composure.

**SANS** (sahn' or Fr. sahn)

Without, deprived of.

**SAVOIR-FAIRE** (saw'vwa'fayr')

"To know how to do", tact; poise, polish; experienced cleverness. However, our *savoir-faire* implies "savvy," technical knowledge, or mechanical ability.

**SUSPICION** (sü'spishn')

"Suspicious", a dash of; small portion.

**SUCCESS D'ESTIME** (suk'ses' destim')

Success achieved by a play which gets the reviews but not the customers; an artistic success but a financial failure, also applied to a favorable review given out of respect to the author's known ability or ancestry.

**SUCCES POU** (sü'ses' pö')

"A wild success", a smash hit.

---

a—bat, ä—bäa, i—biir, ä—baa, e—ben, ä—bä, i—bi, ä—bide,  
o—bet, ö—böre, ö—böra, u—bur, ö—büga, ä—bira, öö—bood,  
öö—bööt, oo—out, oo—od, ug—ung, uug—üger, th—thun,  
th—thra, sh—vira, and a which equals a in dag, e in wööl,  
i in pagl, o in machöl, u in vieru, or y in marry.

YIHS-I-YIHS (ihs'ih, Pl. lo'ahf')

"Head to head"; a face-to-face conversation; confidential chat.

YOSHAI (ihs'ahf')

"Touched," a term used in fencing. "A hit, a very palpable hit" says Owick during the fencing match in *Romeo*. *Toschi* is generally used as an exclamation to acknowledge the scoring of a successful point in argument or a witty retort.

YOSH ID FORCE (ihs' id fsh')

A feat of strength or skill; a literary or dramatic trick; a work done to exhibit the mechanical ability of an author in a field not his own—just to show he can do it.

YIS-I-YIS or YIS I YIS (yish'ahf')

Directly opposite to; facing; in regard to; over against; in reference to.

YOLTE-FACE (yoh'te'f')

A complete turnabout; a reversal of policy, opinion, or attitude; an about-face.

## SPANISH

Out West and along the Rio Grande, in those regions once settled by the Spaniards, many words coming from Spain or Mexico have settled down in the daily speech of the cowboys and other inhabitants of the West. Words of Spanish origin are also common in terms relating to art and the dance. Here, however, we have room for only a few borrowings of a general nature.

AFICIONADO (afish'ah'doh)

A fan; amateur; devoted follower of a sport.

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a—ha, a—hah, a—häre, a—här, a—ha, a—hä, i—ha, i—hida,  
o—ha, o—hah, o—hah, o—ha, o—hah, o—häre, do—hood,  
do—hoh, on—ah, on—ah, ag—ah, ag—ah, ch—ah,  
th—ah, th—ah, and a which equals a in dag, a in modél,  
i in puél, o in method, a in ahah, or y in marty.





**RONANEA** (rónan'eá)

Originally a mine with a rich yield of silver or gold; a gold mine, a rich return on an investment or a source of large income; a stroke of good luck.

**CANTINA** (kanitín')

Canteen, a combination saloon and supply store where entertainment is also provided.

**HIJALOO** (hidal'pó)

A second-degree nobleman; a "screwbody" since *hidalgo* is formed from two words meaning son of somebody.

**JUNTA** (jun'tá or Spanish hōn'tá)

A council or committee, a secret council; a group of plotters; a cabal, clique, faction, or junta.

**OLLAPOTOMIA** (óla pótót'fía)

A mixture, miscellany, hodgepodge. Like *potpourri*, *olla podrida* means a rotten pot, a stew of meat and vegetables. *Olla*, coming from *olla*, is used in the theater to mean a number of short pieces as in *vaudeville*.

**VAGUERO** (vikár'ó)

Cowboy. The cowboys corrupted this word to *hachero*.

PORTUGUESE

**AUTO-DE-FÉ** (ótót'fí')

"Act of the faith", the ceremony accompanying the pronouncement of judgment by the Inquisition, which was followed by the execution of the guilty by secular authorities, an execution, used figuratively to denote the punishment of an unorthodox person.

a—hai, á—há, ê—hê, e—he, ô—hó, í—hi, i—hí, o—ho, ó—hó, u—hu, u—hú, a—hat, ô—hâ, ê—hê, ã—hã, õ—hõ, ou—out, co—co, eg—eg, eg—feg, d—th, th—th, th—th, and s which equals s in *day*, c as *month*, j as *jump*, o as *method*, u as *corpse*, or y as *martyr*.

## ITALIAN

From Italy, land of art and music, we have borrowed many words pertaining to the arts. The musical terms you'll find on your concert-hall programs are almost all Italian. We shall not list the special musical vocabulary of Italian songs, we shall limit ourselves to a few common words and phrases.

**A CAPPELLA** (a kăp'pĕllă)

Unaccompanied choral music 'in chapel style.'

**AL FRESCO** (al frĕs'ko)

'In the fresh air'; out of doors.

**BRAVURA** (bravŭ'ra or bravŭ'ra)

'Bravery', a show of dash and spirit, bold.

**CHIARO SCURO** (kharŏ'skŭro)

Clear, clear or light + oscuro, dark or shadowy; a sketch in black and white; a sharp contrast.

**CICERONE** (chĕt'cherŏ'nă or chĕrŏ'nĕ)

A guide to a museum or other sights. The word comes from the name of Rome's greatest orator, Cicero. Silent guides are rare, as any tourist will tell you.

**COMEDIA DELL'ARTE** (kŏm'edĭa dell'ărt)

A type of comedy as played by a guild of Italian artists who improvised from a written plot. Brooks Atkinson once called a production of Volpese "a tough stage circus which scholars might describe as *commedia dell'arte* and theansigners would call *burlesque*."

**CON AMORE** (kŏnămŏ'rĕ)

Tenderly, with love and devotion.

a—hat, ā—hāte, ä—bäre, ă—bär, e—bēa, ē—bē, i—hē, ī—hēde,  
o—bōt, ō—lōrēa, ô—bōrē, u—bū, ū—būpt, ű—būn, ŏ—bōod,  
ö—bōöt, œ—œt, œ—œt, ȳ—ȳt, ȳ—ȳt, ȳ—ȳt, ȳ—ȳt,  
th—thāt, zh—zhāt, and a which equals a in dŭl, e in modŭl,  
i in papŭl, o in modŭl, u in cŭrē, or y in cŭrē.















*L. Parlez-vous Français?*

Each of the incomplete statements below can be completed by a French expression. Choose the correct one from the four given at the end of each statement.

Answers for these tests will be found on page 343.

1. A sudden act of force by which a government is changed is called (a) *coup d'état* (b) *cour de force* (c) *coup de police* (d) *secrète force*.

2. A feeling of pride in the common interests of an organization is often referred to as (a) *bon morale* (b) *en rapport* (c) *esprit de corps* (d) *amor*.

3. The justification for the existence of a condition or an event is its (a) *avou-faire* (b) *raison d'être* (c) *raison sociale* (d) *rapprochement*.

4. Calumnies under trying circumstances is an example of (a) *volée-face* (b) *qui vive* (c) *force majeure* (d) *sang-froid*.

5. A school subject which a pupil dislikes and has great difficulty in passing may become his (a) *faux pas* (b) *dernier res* (c) *calife-cal* (d) *bête noire*.

6. A matter presented for discussion after it has already been acted upon is called (a) *fait accompli* (b) *apropos* (c) *fin de siècle* (d) *au courant*.

7. An idle story is known as (a) *hors de combat* (b) *swind* (c) *maroco* (d) *blague*.

8. To give a person unlimited permission is to give him  
(a) *démarche* (b) *double entendre* (c) *carte blanche* (d)  
*facilitation*.

9. A relation of tension between two countries is called  
(a) *revue* (b) *impasse* (c) *détente* (d) *latency-fare*.

10. The main dish or course is called (a) *hors d'oeuvre*  
(a) *pourpoint* (c) *réclame* (d) *pièce de résistance*.

## II. An Easy French Lesson

In the left-hand column are ten English words which were borrowed from French. Match these naturalized words with their definitions in the right-hand column.

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. sangfroid    | a. file               |
| 2. argot        | b. background         |
| 3. badinage     | c. contractor         |
| 4. cadre        | d. class, kind        |
| 5. confrère     | e. teasing small talk |
| 6. dossier      | f. self-possession    |
| 7. entrepreneur | g. ghost              |
| 8. genre        | h. slang              |
| 9. collègue     | i. colleague          |
| 10. revêtement  | j. framework          |

## III. *Encore! Encore!*

And here are ten more words of the same kind.

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. abettor    | a. paid applauders       |
| 2. onward     | b. nursery               |
| 3. clique     | c. nickname              |
| 4. concierge  | d. easiness              |
| 5. cliche     | e. small pleasing sketch |
| 6. embospoint | f. daughterhouse         |
| 7. malice     | g. doorkeeper            |
| 8. perorator  | h. hoax, false report    |
| 9. oblique    | i. pamphlet              |
| 10. vignette  | j. plumpness             |
|               | k. commutation, link     |
|               | l. small talk            |

## IV. *Polyglot*

The left-hand column is multilingual containing a variety of words taken from Spanish, Italian, and German. Match them with their meanings in the right-hand column.

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. afloresado | a. moxy spirit         |
| 2. bonanza    | b. coarseness, digne   |
| 3. creosote   | c. line point          |
| 4. distant    | d. stroke of good luck |
| 5. arate      | e. lead                |
| 6. junta      | f. enthusiast          |
| 7. poltrope   | g. expert performer    |
| 8. punchin    | h. dabbler             |
| 9. wadette    | i. shoddy              |
| 10. virtuoso  | j. ring in volume      |

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#### IV. PASS THAT TEST!

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"I are you with Mary Smith last night? I think you are un-trustworthy, disloyal, unhelpful, unfriendly, discourteous, un-kind, disobedient, uncheerful, untruthful, cowardly, unclean, and irreverent!"

## 23. What Do They Ask?

FOR THOSE who are preparing for a test these chapters are for immediate use, for those who are interested in building their vocabularies in a leisurely way these chapters are a long-term project.

If a position comes under civil service and a test is given, that test is sure to contain a considerable number of vocabulary questions. Job-placement and personnel tests, aptitude

\* Drawing reproduced courtesy Collier's.

and intelligence tests, scholarship and comprehensive examinations in English—all include an important section on vocabulary. Therefore, to help you pass that test, we are devoting the two final chapters to the types of questions you are likely to meet and in our examples and tests words that have appeared or are likely to appear on such tests.

## TYPES OF TESTS

There are about twenty different types of vocabulary questions. The type most frequently used in this book and found on most examinations is the one offering a multiple choice of definitions. The next chapter contains multiple-choice tests of words. In this chapter we shall take up with examples most of the other types of questions found on examinations. Answers for tests in this chapter will be found on page 500.

### I. Matching

You are given two columns of words and phrases or expressions. You are asked to match the terms in one column with their corresponding definitions in the other column.

Note that one column may contain more entries than the other column. Don't be alarmed if you can't find a place for some of the definitions in the longer column. It was planned that way to cut down guessing. Also note that the columns contain a mixed assortment of nouns, adjectives, verbs, and other parts of speech. Let this fact help you. Match nouns with nouns, etc.

Below is a matching exercise. Take each word in Column A in order and find the expression or word in Column B that is nearest to it in meaning.

*Example:* Suppose that *saffron* were in Column A as Number 1. You look down Column B until you come across *yellow-orange*. Then you write 1b as the correct answer.

Column A	Column B
1. <i>butane</i>	a. silly
2. <i>desert</i>	b. clear a mountain
3. <i>edification</i>	c. urging
4. <i>renewals</i>	d. misdirect
5. <i>habitués</i>	e. make a temporary stay
6. <i>farture</i> —	f. superficial growth

7. sham	a. contentment
8. adjourn	b. power
9. solicitous	c. support
10. trench	d. full scope
	e. extraction
	f. newspaper
	g. swell
	h. yellow-orange
	i. clothing

### B. Group Choice

This is a variation of the multiple-choice type. You are given a list of numbered words in one column and groups of four words each in another column. Each group is designated by a letter. You must take each numbered word in order and in one of the groups on the right find the word closest in meaning. Then you write down the number of the word and the letter of the group in which its synonym is found.

*Example:* Suppose that *propensity* were Number 11 in the left-hand column below. Its synonym in the groups to the right is *wedlowy* in Group B. The answer would be 11-B.

1. decry	GROUP A
2. extant	hater shameful risen twiddle
3. forswore	GROUP B
4. opprobrium	wedlowy error detect woody
5. crumpled	GROUP C
6. prodigality	odd dense existing adjusted
7. magnification	GROUP D
8. myriad	substitute branch attachment downward
9. verbose	GROUP E
10. vicarious	negligent beatable merry stark



### III. A Pair of Synonyms

In this type of question you are asked to select from a group of four words the two words that are synonyms or that are closely related in meaning.

Example: (a) choleric (b) derisive (c) angry (d) imperishable.

The correct answer is: (a) and (c).

1. (a) demeanor (b) enjoyment (c) behest (d) command
2. (a) aberrant (b) enmeshment (c) hotel (d) fleeing
3. (a) gullible (b) spewed (c) craven (d) perfidious
4. (a) changeable (b) perverse (c) learned (d) obscure
5. (a) impair (b) rival (c) damage (d) when
6. (a) shut out (b) excuse (c) exonerate (d) condemn
7. (a) desolate (b) easy (c) matted (d) insouciant
8. (a) shrewish (b) fealty (c) bias (d) madden
9. (a) languor (b) beauty (c) latitude (d) heat
10. (a) scruple (b) qualm (c) devotion (d) complaint

### IV. A Pair of Antonyms

This is the opposite of the previous type. You must pick off words with opposite meanings, antonyms. We'll make it a little harder by asking you to pick two out of five choices.

Example: (a) interminable (b) vague (c) coincidental (d) finished (e) unbearable

The correct answer is: (a) and (d).

1. (a) sincere (b) bigoted (c) contrite (d) tolerant (e) deep
2. (a) valid (b) concise (c) dignified (d) whimsical (e) delinquent
3. (a) long (b) prolate (c) supine (d) believable (e) inspired
4. (a) contemplating (b) complete (c) scathing (d) laudatory (e) eminent
5. (a) unite (b) compare (c) despair (d) believe (e) render
6. (a) goaded (b) persuade (c) weaken (d) teach (e) deny
7. (a) representative (b) thrifty (c) honest (d) atypical (e) notable
8. (a) flurry (b) covert (c) convinced (d) open (e) agreed
9. (a) quiescent (b) friendly (c) joking (d) turbulent (e) faithful
10. (a) prevail on (b) pander (c) continue (d) discipline (e) convert

# V. Finding an Opposite

In this type of question you are asked to find in a group of four words a word that is opposite in meaning to a given word.

Example: adamant: (a) thick (b) compliant (c) stubborn (d) precious

The correct answer is (b).

1. affable (a) pleasant (b) sorry (c) weak (d) unknown
2. bizarre (a) normal (b) sacrosanct (c) occupied (d) eccentric
3. clemency (a) severity (b) good health (c) sternness (d) aid
4. decimate (a) belittle (b) refuse (c) affirm (d) defer
5. enhance (a) widen (b) risk (c) sell (d) decrease
6. sagaciously (a) generous (b) parsimonious (c) litfully (d) comprehensive
7. occult (a) open (b) hidden (c) respectful (d) regional
8. palliate (a) gloss over (b) spread thickly (c) extenuate (d) aggravate
9. sobriety (a) moderation (b) drunkenness (c) darkness (d) sincerity
10. untenable (a) defensible (b) unmeasurable (c) incorrigible (d) difficult

# VI. Eliminate the Imposter

In this type of question you are given a group of four words, three of which are closely related or similar in meaning. You are asked to pick the word that does not belong in the group.

Example: (a) false (b) deceitful (c) untruthful (d) authentic

The correct answer is (d).

1. (a) squander (b) waste (c) prodigalness (d) subterfuge
2. (a) atrocious (b) heinous (c) heinous (d) nefarious
3. (a) affirm (b) refute (c) disprove (d) rebut
4. (a) augment (b) warm (c) majestic (d) superb
5. (a) abysmal (b) charitable (c) gaudy (d) benevolent
6. (a) evince (b) exhibit (c) display (d) contain
7. (a) glacial (b) gaudy (c) glaring (d) icy
8. (a) hermit (b) mendicant (c) anchorite (d) recluse
9. (a) skilful (b) veiled (c) horrifying (d) down-out
10. (a) curse (b) obsequies (c) ritual (d) carouse

VII. One-Word Completions

In this type you are asked to complete a sentence by choosing one of four words necessary to make the statement true or to complete it most satisfactorily.

**Example:**

If you want to look up the meaning of a word you consult (a) a lexicon (b) a concordance (c) an encyclopedia (d) a rubric.

The correct answer is (a).

Now try the following:

1. If a person cannot be easily handled or dealt with he will not be complimented for his (a) docility (b) knowledge (c) tractability (d) eulogy.

2. The science of words and language is known as (a) philology (b) paleontology (c) bibliography (d) entomology.

3. The junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi can be called a (a) strife (b) confluence (c) confluence (d) levee.

4. The order to stay in one's own backwoods means that a person should remain in his own (a) room (b) district (c) country (d) bed.

5. Because the orator's speech was high-flown and pretentious, the reporters termed it (a) bombastic (b) austere (c) untruthful (d) vituperative.

6. When the courier had advanced to the highest position attainable he was said to have reached the (a) vigil (b) precipice (c) threshold (d) pinnacle.

7. Accepting his fate with calmness, the camel driver said, "It is (a) growing late (b) hazy (c) dark (d) quiet."

8. Nations that do not trust each other look upon each other (a) calmly (b) hopefully (c) askance (d) retrospectively.

9. A person who constantly thinks he is sick is a (a) hypochondriac (b) misogynist (c) humanitropist (d) hyperpituitary.

10. But a person who is really sickly and is unduly solicitous about his health is a (a) valedictorian (b) vegetarian (c) valedictorian (d) dilectician.

Another type of one-word completion follows:

11. One of the time-tested ways of remembering a series of items is known as a \_\_\_\_\_ device (a) intellectal (b) recollected (c) schematic (d) mnemonic (e) rigorous

12. As the waves rose and the ship tossed, many of the passengers felt \_\_\_\_\_ (a) lethargic (b) subdued (c) tremulous (d) homesick (e) queasy

13. More than fourteen years have passed since Jackie Robinson broke the color line in major league baseball, but \_\_\_\_\_ problems keep troubling the sport (a) personal (b) segregation (c) financial (d) expenses (e) confusion

14. The basic structure of the living cell is a problem where \_\_\_\_\_ can be judged by reference to the difficult exploration of the structure of the atom (a) importance (b) universality (c) antiquity (d) need (e) complexity

15. Cyprus is still not economically viable and, though \_\_\_\_\_ important, it is militarily weak in its own right (a) necessarily (b) strategically (c) scarcely (d) independently (e) technically

### PMI. Two-Word Completion

#### A

Each question in this group consists of a sentence from which two words have been omitted. Below each incomplete sentence are five pairs of words. You must choose one of these groups to complete the sentence and make it a true statement. Try each pair and choose the one that makes the most sense. Example:

A \_\_\_\_\_ response is one that is made with \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) stupid, fear (b) speedy, slowness (c) sure, downcast (d)  
harmful, goodness (e) pleasant, surprise

The correct answer is (b)

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

1. \_\_\_\_\_ persons are inclined to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) obese, corpulence (b) gaunt, leanness (c) domineering, omnipotence (d) vanishing, diminution (e) covering, affluence
2. A large \_\_\_\_\_ center is an \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) district, affluence (b) transport, automobile (c) clinic, anatomy (d) shopping, supermarket (e) educational, idiosyncrasy
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a temporary \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) deviation, rut (b) chamber, journey (c) reprieve, relief (d) perdition, quiescence (e) faint, spell
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) norm, standard (b) criterion, mistake (c) discipline, school (d) doctrine, follower (e) thesis, superciliousness
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ shade of distinction is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) type, verification (b) cross, profanity (c) whole, measure (d) thorough, prejudice (e) complete, paradox
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ of small stones is called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) collection, numismatist (b) collar, nerve (c) seller, omniscience (d) mound, lithograph (e) pattern, mosaic
7. At some private schools pupils are under the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) pastore, pedagogue (b) tidings, preceptor (c) roasting, variety (d) auditory, library (e) consensus, mentor
8. \_\_\_\_\_ praise is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) continuous, maturity (b) indiscernible, exasperation (c) servile, adulation (d) unmarked for, gratitude (e) cowardly, intensity
9. Supremacy is \_\_\_\_\_ control over a \_\_\_\_\_ state.  
(a) complete, democratic (b) native, backward (c) general, unified (d) political, dependent (e) economic, fed-up
10. \_\_\_\_\_ language may also be termed \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) eloquent, engrossed (b) limited, bland (c) abusive, scornful (d) constructions, flattery (e) circumlocutory, propitiate

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

1. \_\_\_\_\_ persons are inclined to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) chess, equidance (b) pecunia, business (c) demerol, importance (d) vanishing, determination (e) covering, affrontary
2. A large \_\_\_\_\_ center is an \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) district, affliction (b) transport, automobile (c) civil, anarchy (d) shopping, expatriate (e) educational, indignity
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a temporary \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) deviation, rest (b) chamber, journey (c) respite, relief (d) perdition, quorum (e) feast, apol
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) norm, standard (b) offering, mistake (c) disciple, school (d) doctrine, follower (e) theme, supervision
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ shade of distinction is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) lga, vindication (b) cross, profusely (c) subtle, nuance (d) thorough, prejudice (e) complete, paradox
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ of small stones is called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) collection, numismatist (b) collar, taw (c) seller, connoisseur (d) mound, lithograph (e) pattern, mosaic
7. At some private schools pupils are under the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) pedagogue, palladium (b) tutelage, preceptor (c) coaching, vinty (d) assiduity, library (e) comaratus, mentor
8. \_\_\_\_\_ grades is known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) continuous, maturity (b) indifferentiate, excozum (c) servile, abolition (d) unasked for, graduate (e) cowardly, tenacity
9. Sacerdotality is \_\_\_\_\_ control over a \_\_\_\_\_ state.  
(a) complete, democratic (b) native, backward (c) control, unified (d) political, dependent (e) economic, isolated
10. \_\_\_\_\_ language may also be termed \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) eloquent, exposure (b) formed, placid (c) abusive, voracious (d) unscrupulous, flattering (e) documentary, propitiate

B

These two-word completion exercises are designed to find out (1) whether you can comprehend through clue words the meaning of a sentence still incomplete (2) whether your vocabulary is not only precise but discriminating and (3) whether you possess some sense of style.

1. Though the Oxford English Dictionary is undoubtedly the greatest dictionary ever \_\_\_\_\_, it is designed for scholars and research workers rather than for the \_\_\_\_\_ dictionary user.

(a) assembled, audacious (b) demystified, amateur (c) compiled, casual (d) published, professional (e) projected, unimportant

2. Hence the word sophistry has an unfavorable \_\_\_\_\_ and means arguing deceptively, attempting to turn a poor case into a good one by means of clever but \_\_\_\_\_ reasoning.

(a) discussion, ingenious (b) meaning, ingenious (c) significance, vague (d) connection, specious (e) aspect, urgent

3. He warned the workers against supporting these anti-social policies, which he declared would \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_ the plight of the common people.

(a) rescue, destroy (b) oppress, alleviate (c) impact, improve (d) protect, inhibit (e) encourage, defy

4. Into the limited space given him a headline writer must compress the \_\_\_\_\_ of the news and he must do it without \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) bias, apology (b) magnanimity, distortion (c) reality, hedging (d) synopsis, suggestion (e) gist, ambiguity

5. To cross the Rubicon means to take a final \_\_\_\_\_ step which may have dangerous \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) irrevocable, consequences (b) well-considered, implications (c) unnecessary, polarizations (d) inconsequential, consequences (e) hazardous, anticlimaxes

6. We have criticized our university students for preferring the security of political silence and the safety of \_\_\_\_\_ to the excitement of social \_\_\_\_\_ and humanitarian action.

(a) concealment, revolution (b) acquiescence, dissent (c) tolerance, antagonism (d) college, adventure (e) security, insecurity

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

7. Among the younger people there are complaints that the sight of ex-slaves flourishing economically \_\_\_\_\_ to youth, that it instills, instead of needed racial values, the dubious concept that \_\_\_\_\_ is the best policy.

- (a) emulation, luxury (b) desperation, dishonesty (c) selfishness, indifference (d) cynicism, expediency (e) dishonesty, intolerance

8. Although there were \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances in this particular violation of the law, the judge ruled that there had to be strict \_\_\_\_\_ or there would be no law at all.

- (a) extraordinary, compliance (b) specific, obedience (c) questionable, observation (d) extenuating, compliance (e) untalting, adherence

9. Oddly enough \_\_\_\_\_ the prestige of the United States in such countries as Britain, France, and Italy is considered important here, Congress has been \_\_\_\_\_ about supplying funds to the U.S. Information Agency in those countries.

- (a) since, dilatory (b) whereas, wasteful (c) when generous (d) namely as, indigent (e) although, stingy

10. Like the \_\_\_\_\_ part of an iceberg, much of what is really interesting in the capital is not \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) greater, dangerous (b) submerged, visible (c) upper, viable (d) lower, penetrable (e) lower, known

11. In diplomacy \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ sought by one government from another to the name of a proposed ambassador is known as an "agreement."

- (a) curies, persuasion (b) channels, conflict (c) language, interpretation (d) parlance, amicit (e) dealings, understanding

12. For some years past, French governments have been \_\_\_\_\_ and divided, and French parliaments have been incoherent and \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) weak, ineffectual (b) unstable, contradicting (c) vacillating, irresponsible (d) many, few (e) inarticulate, responsive

13. The increasing revival of dramatic details is, to one critic, \_\_\_\_\_; it seems to him a sign of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the modern theater.

- (a) deplorable, excess (b) astounding, variety (c) surprising, resurgence (d) incompatible, paradox (e) understandable, prosperity



## WHAT DO THEY ASK?

14 But even Mr. Moon, one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ public servants of our time, is at a loss to convey in words the size, the imaginative engineering \_\_\_\_\_ that built this contribution to the welfare of family and industry.

(a) public spirited, skill (b) dedicated, cogitated (c) unappreciated, technique (d) articulate, ingenuity (e) tongue-tied, miracle

15 If it were true that enduring lessons are learned from \_\_\_\_\_ errors, Broadway would be the repository of \_\_\_\_\_ theatrical wisdom.

(a) dubious, profound (b) egregious, sublime (c) dramatic, lasting (d) trivial, innocuous (e) accidental, occult

16 In architecture, much more than in any of the other arts, there is a marked tracing between the \_\_\_\_\_ of ideas and their \_\_\_\_\_ in the shape of completed buildings.

(a) dawn, practicality (b) settlement, fruition (c) emergence, application (d) tradition, modernization (e) burgeoning, welcoming

17 Scientific imagination is a specific intellectual power that is \_\_\_\_\_ in every population that has learned to be \_\_\_\_\_ about the mechanisms governing the physical world.

(a) latent, curious (b) forming, diffident (c) growing, self-possessed (d) encouraged, wary (e) evolved, self-deprecatory

18 The westerlies normally cross the United States at altitudes from 10,000 to 50,000 feet along the Canadian border, acting as a \_\_\_\_\_ to Arctic winds and giving the Middle Atlantic States relatively \_\_\_\_\_ winters.

(a) catalyst, unsettled (b) detainer, cold (c) counterpart, predictable (d) buffer, temperate (e) propellant, mild

19 The practice of painting slogans on rock faces, once a thriving industry in Britain, has fallen into \_\_\_\_\_, but there has recently been a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in County Antrim.

(a) disfavor, upheaval (b) disuse, reminiscence (c) oblivion, demand (d) misuse, artium (e) mediocrity, resurgence

20 Athletes have so perfected their techniques in track and field events that the \_\_\_\_\_ becomes \_\_\_\_\_ before record books can be published.

(a) meet, official (b) time, authentic (c) fantastic, commonplace (d) result, obsolete (e) announcement, public

*IX. Analogies*

**A**

This type of question involves more than merely a knowledge of the meanings of words—it tests your ability to see relationships, your power to reason, and your knowledge of subject matter and everyday affairs. Often the words themselves are very simple, but you must be careful to distinguish fine shades of meaning.

The more usual form of questions involving analogies consists of two words or phrases (generally printed in CAPITAL letters) that are related to each other in a specific way followed by five pairs of words or phrases. Of these five pairs you are asked to select the one pair that best or most closely expresses a relationship similar to or the same as that expressed in the original pair. The symbols used are those used in ratio and proportion:

1 : 4 :: 3 : 5.

The sign : means *is to* or *are to*, and :: means *as*. An example of a simple verbal analogy is.

APPLE - FRUIT :: CARROT - vegetable.

It is, of course, impossible to list all the relationships existing among persons, places, things, words, and ideas, but we are putting down a list of most of the types that have been used on scholarship and aptitude examinations. In each case we are giving you an example to fix the idea firmly in your mind.

Please note that the relationships may be expressed vice versa.

**EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF ANALOGIES**

1. Like is to like, such as synonyms, and including similarity between persons, objects, concepts, as well as degree of similarity.

(a) BECLARE - ADVERT :: surprise - attack verbally.

(b) APPLE - FRUIT :: CARROT - *fruit*.

(c) SILENCE - distraction :: happiness - exhilaration.

## WHAT DO THEY ASK?

1. Like is to unlike, such as antonyms, and including dissimilarity between persons, objects, concepts, as well as degree of dissimilarity.

SOFT : CLAREN :: languid : active.

2. One is to many or part is to the whole, such as the individual or special member as part of a group, class, political division, or general concept.

(a) SOLDIER : ARMY :: sailor : navy.

(b) CHIEF : TOWN :: governor : state.

(c) LINK : NECKLACE :: link : chain.

4. User is to object, tool, or implement that he uses.

(a) WOODSMAN : AX :: farmer : scythe.

5. Material is to its product

WOOL : BLANKET :: leather : shoes.

6. Collector or scholar or professional man is to a specialty.

ENTOMOLOGIST : WORMS :: podiatrist : feet.

7. One geometric figure or body is to another.

CIRCLE : CURVE :: circle : square.

8. Units of number and quantity are to other units.

(a) TEN : THOUSAND :: 1,000 : million.

(b) PINT : QUART :: ounce : dram.

9. Special article of dress is to the wearer.

UNIFORM : BOOZEMAN :: uniform : soldier.

10. Person, animal, or object is to a characteristic activity or trait (expressed by verbs, nouns or adjectives).

(a) HEN : CHUCKLE :: goose : quack.

(b) LION : SWIFTHNESS :: leopard : ferocity.

(c) LION : CUNNING :: leopard : force.

11. Noun is to its corresponding adjective.

SHEEP : TAME :: sheep : wild.

12. Adjective is to its abstract noun.

AMICABLE : FRIENDSHIP :: unkind : unfriendliness

13. Noun is to a verb showing what is being done to the noun.

GRADE : ROW :: IDEAS : spread.

14. Thing or idea is to what it ordinarily does.

SCISSORS : CUT :: PEN : write.

15. Cause is to effect.

JOY : TEARS :: JOY : laughter.

16. Symbol is to what it stands for, including insignia and the person or group the insignia are associated with.

(a) TURTLE AND PANSY : 1938 WORLD'S FAIR ::

UNION : 1964 WORLD'S FAIR.

(b) CROWN : MONARCH :: EAGLE : soldier.

17. Young is to old.

COKE : MASH :: CUB : lion.

18. Singular is to plural.

COCK : CHICK :: PAUCITY : paucity.

19. Grammatical case form is to another form.

I : ME :: WHO : whom.

20. Masculine is to feminine.

BOY : GIRL :: FOX : vixen.

21. One form of a verb is to another of the same verb.

GO : WENT :: SING : sang.

22. Implied relationships and comparisons, such as metaphors

(a) FURNACE : JETTER :: clouds : sea.

(b) SPEAKING : MATHS :: knowledge : light.

(c) MILLION : MORE :: love : society.

## AND MANY MORE

Before we put you on your own, we shall work out two questions together. Here is the first:

SHARPEN : CARPENTER ::

(a) run : sprint

(b) brush : painter

(c) shave : barber

(d) anchor : sailor

(e) blueprint : architect

**FIRST STEP:** Examine the relationship in the first pair from all possible angles. Express the relationship not "as this is to that," but in more specific terms. Example: "A hammer is used by a carpenter as an essential tool."

**SECOND STEP:** Repeat the formula for each of the choices. Discard those that obviously do not fit, such as (a) and (e). **THIRD STEP:** Weigh the arguments for each of the choices that appear to fit: (b), (d), and (c), then make the final decision. When two or more seem to fit because of general agreement with the original pair, you must find additional specific agreement to narrow the choice to only one pair. In the above question, the sailor and the architect make use of an anchor or blueprint, respectively. However, the sailor does not handle the anchor or make anything with it, as a carpenter does with a hammer. The architect constructs but does not wield a blueprint. Therefore, the remaining choice (b) is correct, because the correspondence with the original choice is the closest.

Of course, you might have made this choice at first glance, but remember that about 250 years ago, Alexander Pope wrote, "For fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Be an angel! Test all possibilities; beware of traps.

Now let us try the second example, which is more difficult:  
affection : devotion ::

- (a) frankness : candor
- (b) boasting : braggart
- (c) large : gigantic
- (d) timidity : cowardice
- (e) lakest : forgo

Taking the first step again, you discover that the original pair consists of synonyms.

Taking the second step, you eliminate (b) and (e).

Taking the third step, you weigh the arguments. What specific relationship can be established in addition to the general relationship that holds for (a), (c), and (d), that will narrow the choice to only one of the two pairs? *Affection* and *devotion* are extremes. Hence (a) is eliminated because *frankness* and *candor* express practically the same degree. However, *large* and *gigantic* are also extremes. So are *timidity* and *cowardice*. There is therefore still another specific detail to be considered. *Large* and *gigantic* refer to size; *timidity* and *cowardice* refer to mental or emotional states,

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

as do the words in the original pair. Therefore the correct answer is (d).

NOTE. In both examples given for analysis, the original pair of words consist of two nouns. Most frequently, the correct choice will consist of the same kind of words as in the original pair. However, it is possible for a pair of nouns to be compared with two verbs or two adjectives. You may also find a noun and an adjective in the original pair. In such instances, the correct choice will also contain two unlike parts of speech. What you must see clearly is that the relationship of the parts of speech in the original pair must be maintained in the correct choice. Within each pair there must be exact correspondence as in:

poem : poem :: noun : noun ; verb : verb ; adjective : adjective.

Now you are ready to try the questions below. Answers will be found on p. 368.

### 1. SUGAR : SWEET ::

- (a) sugar : cake
- (b) winds : speech
- (c) ink : pen
- (d) paper : author
- (e) skates : ice

### 2. SCALP : HAIR ::

- (a) curtain : window
- (b) cloth : table
- (c) earth : grass
- (d) shoe : foot
- (e) house : roof

### 3. FUGARE : BUILDING ::

- (a) did : watch
- (b) fence : garden
- (c) neck : bottle
- (d) page : book
- (e) drawer : desk

### 4. BLAZE : GLOW ::

- (a) rapid : tepid
- (b) rapid : complete
- (c) dejected : jubilant
- (d) contrite : unrepentant
- (e) credible : believable

3. COSENT : DENYING ::

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) banal      | : naive        |
| (b) nonchalant | : disturbed    |
| (c) laudat     | : confessional |
| (d) cunning    | : ingenuous    |
| (e) dubious    | : certain      |

6. MORASS : FRESH ::

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| (a) forest | : tree     |
| (b) steppe | : plain    |
| (c) desert | : oasis    |
| (d) sea    | : gulf     |
| (e) peak   | : mountain |

7. DISCOMFORT : BARRIBOOTH ::

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) laughable   | : ludicrous  |
| (b) infirm      | : wearisome  |
| (c) unexplained | : distracted |
| (d) tall        | : short      |
| (e) folk        | : celestial  |

8. PELATE : TROCH ::

- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| (a) abate       | : increase |
| (b) expropriate | : deplete  |
| (c) accede      | : disagree |
| (d) recede      | : condense |
| (e) disperse    | : collect  |

9. LORST : CRUSTACEAN ::

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| (a) lion    | : horse   |
| (b) tiger   | : cat     |
| (c) dolphin | : whale   |
| (d) eagle   | : sparrow |
| (e) fission | : atom    |

10. HALLT : PANTICRUS ::

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| (a) parasite | : food      |
| (b) vapour   | : train     |
| (c) vapour   | : nostalgia |
| (d) error    | : frenzy    |
| (e) impostor | : sham      |

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### 11. BLASPHEM : ARCHIPELAGO ::

- (a) stars : constellation
- (b) bare shores : banquet
- (c) nuclei : dollar bill
- (d) birds : sparrow
- (e) stamps : postage

### 12. ANTROPOLOGY : ARITHMETIC ::

- (a) geology : geography
- (b) magic : science
- (c) science : folklore
- (d) chemistry : alchemy
- (e) symbolism : superstition

### 13. PAIN : ANODYNE ::

- (a) hardness : laxity
- (b) accident : insurance
- (c) wife : estrangement
- (d) grief : solace
- (e) surgery : cure

### 14. MULE : BURDEN ::

- (a) scholar : books
- (b) musician : violin
- (c) house : tenants
- (d) ship : cargo
- (e) animal : oppression

### 15. FORGERY : SIGNATURE ::

- (a) carbon copy : original
- (b) falsify : genuine
- (c) false : truth
- (d) proxy : delegate
- (e) amateur : professional

### 16. PHILATELIST : STAMPS ::

- (a) diarist : pictures
- (b) dilettante : music
- (c) numismatist : coins
- (d) connoisseur : dining
- (e) philologist : books

### 17. REVIGORATE : STRENGTHEN ::

- (a) invigorate : brighten
- (b) awe : attribute
- (c) divert : turn
- (d) apprise : obstruct
- (e) satisfy : endorse



# WHAT DO THEY ASK?

## 18. FLAMBOYANT : BOOED ::

- (a) fond : fragrant
- (b) crude : baroque
- (c) fragrant : fragrant
- (d) deluded : available
- (e) inebriable : restrained

## 19. PREDATORY : HAWK ::

- (a) agile : vulture
- (b) speedy : vulture
- (c) wary : lion
- (d) voracious : goshawk
- (e) voracious : glutton

## 20. GUTTURAL : THROAT ::

- (a) palmar : fat
- (b) bar : barista
- (c) manual : hand
- (d) mantle : cloak
- (e) vocal : wine

## 21. ENGINEER : CAR ::

- (a) radiator : cockpit
- (b) radiator : compass
- (c) driver : wheel
- (d) passenger : taxi
- (e) shepherd : flock

## 22. ISTHMIAN : LAND ::

- (a) neck : head
- (b) wrist : water
- (c) channel : stream
- (d) wire : pole
- (e) tunnel : mandarin

## 23. STRINGS : VIOLIN ::

- (a) plectrum : mandolin
- (b) air : flute
- (c) membrane : drum
- (d) petal : organ
- (e) wood : leaves

## 24. I : ME ::

- (a) him : his
- (b) you : you're
- (c) it : it's
- (d) they : there
- (e) who : whose

## HOW TO BUILD A WRITER VOCABULARY

### 24. ALTHOUGH : NOTWITHSTANDING ::

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| (a) since           | : therefore      |
| (b) in spite of     | : consequently   |
| (c) notwithstanding | : if             |
| (d) when            | : simultaneously |
| (e) because         | : therefore      |

### 25. LAUREL : VICTOR ::

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| (a) power         | : glory              |
| (b) chevron       | : army               |
| (c) rubber's foot | : back               |
| (d) cadetism      | : medical profession |
| (e) plant         | : drug               |

### 26. CARELESSNESS : JEOPARDY ::

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) carelessness | : security       |
| (b) crowding     | : discomfort     |
| (c) neglect      | : endanger       |
| (d) failure      | : discouragement |
| (e) penalty      | : chance         |

### 27. MISPLACED : DISTRUST ::

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| (a) begging         | : charity     |
| (b) misapprehension | : confidence  |
| (c) truth           | : falsehood   |
| (d) stupidity       | : failure     |
| (e) search          | : distrustful |

### 28. FLOOD : STAMPEDE ::

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| (a) clouds        | : tornado |
| (b) rain          | : snow    |
| (c) barn          | : crowd   |
| (d) wildness      | : cattle  |
| (e) flow of water | : crowd   |

### 29. PARADOX : FORTIFICATION ::

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) tradition  | : novelty    |
| (b) authority  | : action     |
| (c) antithesis | : irony      |
| (d) kindness   | : obnoxious  |
| (e) usage      | : submission |

## B

In the second type of question involving analogies, one term of the analogy is omitted, and you are asked to select the missing term from five given choices. Apply the same principles of selection as you did in answering part A, above.

**Example:**  
 SEAL : (a) flippers (b) tank (c) tail (d) fin (e) tentacle  
 :: SWIMMER : RACER.

The seal uses flippers to aid its swimming as a swimmer uses his hands. The correct choice is therefore (a).

1. SELWYN : WOODS :: TERRESTRIAL : (a) stars (b) planets  
 (c) earth (d) fear (e) urban.
2. PEDIATRICIAN : (a) children (b) hair (c) feet (d) plants  
 (e) philosophy :: DERMATOLOGIST : SKIN.
3. WALKER : SEPTILMAN :: LAMB :: (a) bovine (b) feline  
 (c) lemurine (d) vulpine (e) leonard.
4. MARTIN : (a) scapula (b) snail (c) trident (d) spear  
 (e) thunderbolt :: CROW : ARROW.
5. ACTON : STUNT :: (a) acrobat (b) pilot (c) oyster  
 (d) soldier (e) rider : MORTUARY.
6. (a) colon (b) small stones (c) birds (d) straw  
 (e) papyrus : MESSAGE :: WOMEN : MOVEMENTS.
7. MARCO POLO : DON QUICHOTE :: (a) Hans Wurst (b) Torro  
 (c) Don Amache (d) Perry Mason (e) John H. Watson  
 : SHERLOCK HOLMES.
8. ASTRONAUT : SPACE :: ANCHORITE : (a) treasure (b) fire  
 (c) ship (d) birds (e) sea.
9. OYSTER : SHELL :: (a) stallion (b) male (c) hoof (d) cock  
 (e) bridle : MOUNT.
10. (a) Luther (b) Bellini (c) Gilbert (d) Mozart  
 (e) Kern : SYMPHONY :: BACHMAN/REYNOLDS : SONATA.
11. MEXICO : FIVE :: CLAYTON : (a) single (b) pretensions  
 (c) sincere (d) accidental (e) thoughtless.
12. MOUNTAIN : MOUNT :: WOLF : (a) roars (b) whispers  
 (c) whines (d) howls (e) howls.

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13. **GENINE** : **SIMULATED** : **EMBODIED** - (a) dynamic (b) elevated (c) destructive (d) unaffected (e) insignificant.
14. **REVIVER** : **CAJOLE** : **WILDER** : (a) slender (b) enlighten (c) eulogize (d) console (e) accustom.
15. **VALUABLE** (p-235) : **PERSONABLE** : (a) diamond (b) atom (c) idea (d) nucleus (e) gold : **VALUABLE**.

### X. Precise Adjectives

There are some English nouns whose adjectives are very queer. For example, how would you express in one word the idea of pertaining to a shore? The adjective for shore (unless you use shore itself) is *littoral*; for a riverbank it is *riparian*.

Some of our most common words have to use learned words derived from Latin or Greek as their adjectives. This is especially true of parts of the body. For example, *nasal*, *articular*, and *oral* are all adjectives that refer to *parts*.

Match the words on the left with their corresponding adjectives on the right.

1. arm	a. umbilical
2. finger	b. digital
3. hair	c. cardiac
4. head	d. cervical
5. heart	e. labial
6. lips	f. capillary
7. nasal	g. cephalic
8. neck	h. lingual
9. tooth	i. dental
10. tongue	j. tracheal

### XI. Forming Adjectives

In this type of question you are asked to write an adjective derived from a given word. Forms ending in *ity*, *ness*, and *ful* are not accepted. Watch your spelling!

Example: *climax*, *climactic*.

1. adolescence	5. author	9. smaller
2. apostle	6. solo	10. content
3. arbor	7. Cambridge	11. delta
4. Aristotle	8. none	12. deride

## WHAT DO THEY ASK?

12. Desecrate	24. governor	36. paraphrase
14. doubt	27. hardly	40. recede
15. exonerate	28. impetus	41. reveal
16. ensue	29. labyrinth	42. sect
17. engross	30. evade	43. sepsis
18. epistle	31. lion	44. Shaw
19. equinox	32. ingrate	45. solstice
20. eulogy	33. menate	46. therapy
21. exemplify	34. moony	47. Thomas Aquinas
22. exposit	35. retrograde	48. till
23. forum	36. amule	49. usury
24. fragrant	37. eury	50. vestry
25. gossamer	38. Oxford	

### XII. Forming Nouns

In this type of test you are asked to write a generally accepted noun form of a given word. Forms ending in ING, ED, OR are not accepted. Watch your spelling!

*Examples: collide, collision.*

1. abasive	11. debarsa	21. rarely
2. absorb	12. ducara	22. pacted
3. accumbous	13. hquely	23. speed
4. basal	14. emanant	24. retrograde
5. compel	15. comoter	25. scus
6. conspous	16. periodite	26. sociotatic
7. cosend	17. prodigal	27. sende
8. contingent	18. pungent	28. spatulate
9. decrupt	19. psallanensis	29. temerarious
10. dely	20. rechoze	30. veridist

### XIII. Singular or Plural

**Directions:** If the plural is given, write P next to the word and give the singular.

If the singular is given, write S and give the plural.

*Examples:*

analysis	S	analysis
opus	S	opera
chorable	P	chorib
insignis	P	insigne
bacteria	P	bacterium

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. anamniote        | 11. data       |
| 2. attorney general | 12. erratum    |
| 3. automata         | 13. fungi      |
| 4. axle             | 14. genus      |
| 5. bacilli          | 15. handful    |
| 6. candidates       | 16. larva      |
| 7. chassis          | 17. phenomenon |
| 8. court-martial    | 18. species    |
| 9. crisis           | 19. stigma     |
| 10. criteria        | 20. thesis     |

### IX. Male and Female

**DIRECTIONS:** If the masculine is given, write M and give the feminine form.

If the feminine is given, write F and give the masculine.

*Example:* bachelor M spinster.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. abbot      | 11. helter     |
| 2. dam        | 12. marthonism |
| 3. doe        | 13. peacock    |
| 4. drains     | 14. ram        |
| 5. earl       | 15. sow        |
| 6. equestrian | 16. testator   |
| 7. executor   | 17. trapezian  |
| 8. filly      | 18. traitor    |
| 9. goose      | 19. vixen      |
| 10. hart      | 20. whelp      |

### X. Getting at the Root

(**WARNING:** These questions are extremely difficult and require a background of etymological study. Although such questions appear rarely, we include them for those who may want to trace word origins.)

Each of the following groups contains either three or four words derived from the same root.

If three of the words are derived from the same root, write down the letter found before the word which does not come from that root.

If all four words are derived from the same root, write the letter *a*.

*Example 1:*

- (a) amorous (b) amateur (c) amity (d) amiable

## WHAT DO THEY ASK?

Since all four come from the root *am* meaning *love*, the correct answer is (c).

### Example 2:

- (a) agent (b) direct (c) dirigible (d) record

The first three are derived from the root *am* meaning *love*; *record* comes from *coram*, *heart*. The correct answer is therefore (d).

1. (a) food (b) delectable (c) elaborate (d) locusts
2. (a) enthusiasm (b) apothecary (c) therapy (d) acathia
3. (a) devote (b) viable (c) supervision (d) obnoxious
4. (a) conclude (b) chief (c) clavichord (d) diatonic
5. (a) word (b) survival (c) vestal (d) avial
6. (a) captain (b) capitol (c) precipitate (d) achieve
7. (a) microscope (b) maneuver (c) mountain (d) monsoon
8. (a) fragile (b) refractory (c) frail (d) fragment
9. (a) legation (b) loop (c) epilogue (d) eulogy
10. (a) confident (b) affluent (c) dely (d) fiancé
11. (a) pogrom (b) chirapodist (c) anapodist (d) platypus
12. (a) relate (b) relinquish (c) derision (d) sole
13. (a) utam (b) maintain (c) utam (d) increment
14. (a) cure (b) consent (c) anconing (d) concord
15. (a) corpulent (b) corpse (c) exorcism (d) composition
16. (a) data (b) mischief (c) undue (d) adder
17. (a) conduct (b) aqueduct (c) duchess (d) conductor
18. (a) labor (b) substitute (c) insight (d) deventure
19. (a) polemos (b) cosmopolis (c) metropolis (d) political
20. (a) preserve (b) receptive (c) capitulate (d) capture

## XVI. The Story Behind the Word

In this type of question your knowledge of etymology is tested. Next to each word you are given four expressions. You are to select the one that most clearly indicates the origin or etymology of the word. The correct answer is not necessarily the best definition.

### Example 1:

- extraneous (a) remarkable (b) fragrant (c) outside the herd (d) extraordinary

Although all four choices are correct, the correct answer is you know from Chapter 4, "Deep Are the Roots," (See page 51) is (c).

Example 2:

*tantalize*

based on the story of: (a) a goddess who was fond of teasing (b) a difficult labor by Hercules (c) the quest of a treasure (d) the punishment of a damned soul suffering from hunger and thirst

Correct answer is (d) from the myth of Tantalus.

1. accost (a) address (b) rub elbows (c) tap on shoulder (d) touch rim
2. anthology (a) collection of flowers (b) collection of poems (c) golden treasure (d) collection of essays
3. cadence (a) falling (b) rhythm (c) grieving (d) cutting
4. candidate (a) self-asker (b) circled in white (c) person of tested integrity (d) competitor
5. cardinal (a) important (b) colossal (c) blinging (d) shonen
6. colossal (a) like an obelisk (b) like a large ancient statue (c) gigantic (d) like a god
7. canny (a) veering (b) vanishing (c) busy (d) superficial
8. dilapidated (a) raised (b) with framework collapsing (c) stones falling apart (d) clothed in pieces
9. disavow (a) unlucky (b) thoughtless (c) sinister (d) ill-starred
10. disown (a) take off clothing (b) disgrace publicly (c) remove from office (d) disprove
11. eliminate (a) put out of sight (b) remove a barrier (c) put out of mind (d) put outside the threshold
12. endorsement (a) approval (b) backing (c) financial aid (d) getting the inside track
13. eradicate (a) stimulate (b) abolish (c) root out (d) rub out
14. galactic (a) eye-filling (b) festive (c) astronomical (d) pertaining to the Milky Way
15. inexcusable (a) not deserving pardon (b) unchangeable (c) incapable of pity (d) unable to plead one's way out



# WHAT DO THEY ASK?

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 16. investigate | (a) look into (b) spend time on (c) spend money on (d) follow footsteps              |
| 17. mellifluous | (a) full of song (b) singing like a bird (c) flowing with honey (d) sweet and gentle |
| 18. precarious  | (a) calling for prayer (b) desperate (c) tottering (d) costly                        |
| 19. precocious  | (a) abnormally clever (b) above normal (c) cooked in advance (d) immature            |
| 20. voracious   | (a) flesh-consuming (b) memorial (c) stone monument (d) heavy tablet                 |



"Boy, did I learn a new word today—saw!" \*

## 24. Words, Words, Words

ONCE MORE from *The Child Buyer* by John Hersey:

SENATOR MANSFIELD: You really love words, don't you?

BARRY BOND: Oh, yes! Kismet, hirsute, melior, anacapa-  
the, umpternal, maraschino, jettison, astral, diaphanous,  
hegemony, exculpatory, homunculus, renaissance, cenobite,  
pneuma, platybatia, nephela, oroscopus, respiration,  
larab—

\* Drawing reproduced courtesy the *Saturday Evening Post*.

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

Since for the most part we are not including words already discussed in the body of this book or those used in previous exercises, it would be advisable—if you are taking a test—to review the exercises at ends of chapters.

In this type of test you are asked to select the definition closest in meaning. The correct answer is not necessarily an exact equivalent or even a very good definition. But it is the one choice that comes closest in meaning to the word to be defined. In our own tests which follow we have tried as far as possible to give you clear and simple definitions. The words to be defined are arranged in groups of progressive difficulty. Added to the words in Chapter 23, they make about 1500 words to help you pass that test (at least four times that many—if you study the choices also). Answers will be found on page 372.

### I. Preliminary

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. slash        | (a) squash (b) embarrass (c) amaze<br>(d) refuse   |
| 2. state        | (a) set (b) remove (c) lessen (d) bend   |
| 3. shonorable   | (a) unfortunate (b) handsome (c) cheap<br>(d) sorry  |
| 4. acclaim      | (a) demand (b) applied (c) surpass<br>(d) elect  |
| 5. addicted     | (a) strongly disposed to (b) mad (c) increased<br>(d) interested   |
| 6. affront      | (a) insult (b) projection (c) invasion<br>(d) storm  |
| 7. alternation  | (a) drastic change (b) angry dispute<br>(c) noisy dialogue (d) loud explosion                                    |
| 8. incoherently | (a) abnormally (b) ignorantly (c) accidentally (d) rarely  |
| 9. arboreal     | (a) holiday (b) bower (c) traillike (d) shady  |
| 10. askew       | (a) turned to one side (b) dense (c) doubtful (d) wide open  |
| 11. avowed      | (a) sacred oath (b) open declaration<br>(c) harsh sound (d) stern demand   |
| 12. berate      | (a) deny (b) downgrade (c) scold (d) judge   |
| 13. bicameral   | (a) meeting twice a year (b) having two legislative branches (c) having two houses (d) published every two years |
| 14. blazon      | (a) curdy (b) frolic (c) depressed (d) noisy   |
| 15. capsize     | (a) summarize (b) execute (c) withdraw<br>(d) surrender  |
| 16. censure     | (a) secure (b) sway (c) decay (d) handle   |
| 17. censure     | (a) stir (b) warn (c) set away (d) bend  |
| 18. cherub      | (a) mischievous (b) expensive (c) naive<br>(d) angelic   |

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

19. compliance (a) flexibility (b) spite (c) obedience  
(d) weakness
20. compassion (a) remorse (b) conscience (c) pitying  
love (d) satisfaction
21. concentrated (a) group of stars (b) humble service  
(c) large display (d) great amusement
22. corrode (a) polishing (b) acid-forming (c) fading  
(d) riding away
23. covert (a) patent (b) secret (c) dash (d) greedy
24. covetous (a) sheltered (b) hidden (c) grasping  
(d) dusty
25. cumbersome (a) heavy (b) sorrowful (c) unwieldy  
(d) laborious
26. debility (a) debt (b) hostility (c) pain (d) weak-  
ness
27. decor (a) dramatic presentation (b) showpiece  
(c) ornamental setting (d) rich furni-  
ture
28. decline (a) mocking (b) copied (c) limited  
(d) borrowed
29. derogatory (a) questionable (b) inquisitive (c) hostile  
(d) deprecating
30. devious (a) multitudes (b) passing (c) cir-  
cumnous (d) premature
31. dilatory (a) expanded (b) casual (c) slow  
(d) amiable
32. discursive (a) profane (b) rambling (c) detailed  
(d) extraneous
33. disparate (a) separate (b) discourage (c) compare  
(d) belittle
34. diurnal (a) new account (b) solar (c) daily  
(d) everlasting
35. dolorous (a) sorrowful (b) financial (c) sacred  
(d) parsimonious
36. dourly (a) corpulent (b) robust (c) elegant  
(d) unslyish
37. ducent (a) melodegus (b) ether (c) poetry  
(d) twofold
38. ejection (a) level of command (b) squadron leader  
(c) moment (d) background
39. edify (a) assess (b) satisfy (c) convince  
(d) arrest
40. engender (a) maneuver (b) cause (c) fertilize  
(d) unite
41. epithet (a) inscription (b) shoulder piece (c) de-  
scriptive term (d) honorary award
42. expedient (a) advantageous (b) free (c) frequent  
(d) rapid
43. expiate (a) expir (b) satisfy (c) denoted

	(d) alone
44. erude	(a) erudite (b) overflow (c) wither away (d) come out
45. facet	(a) gaze (b) aspect (c) sport (d) trait
46. filial	pertaining to a. (a) parent (b) son (c) duty (d) wise man
47. filly	(a) beverage (b) acrobatic trick (c) large dose (d) vibration
48. effluvy	(a) leech (b) density (c) heaviness (d) darkness
49. germane	(a) lateral (b) Tenuous (c) relevant (d) microscopic
50. garrulous	(a) thankful (b) reproachful (c) industrious (d) uncalled for
51. gale	(a) desert (b) make (c) protection (d) appearance
52. heterogeneous	composed of (a) similar parts (b) unlike elements (c) smooth surfaces (d) complex problems
53. idiosyncrasy	(a) personality (b) lack of intelligence (c) absolute rule (d) distinctive characteristics
54. ingrate	(a) parent (b) constant (c) steal (d) encroach
55. incisive	(a) penetrating (b) short (c) compassionate (d) sacred
56. incongruous	(a) unoffical (b) incompatible (c) poorly timed (d) uneven
57. incumbent	(a) obligatory (b) doubtful (c) weak (d) distant
58. ineptitude	(a) definite (b) vacillation (c) awkwardness (d) unexperience
59. incense	(a) spy upon (b) suggest shyly (c) set free (d) cause injury
60. insipid	(a) tasteless (b) unseasoned (c) interchangeable (d) unplanned
61. interloper	(a) acrobat (b) intruder (c) slanderer (d) malingerer
62. jovial	(a) mas (b) playful (c) useless (d) history
63. malice	(a) disapprove (b) sustain (c) cause (d) slander
64. manifest	(a) cargo list (b) secret treaty (c) revolutionary plot (d) public declaration
65. mendacious	(a) overwrought (b) weakly sentimental (c) crossingly sad (d) dispersed
66. mercur	(a) quick-tempered (b) cowardly (c) ill-humored (d) dependent
67. mutation	(a) silence (b) aversion (c) display (d) variation

# WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

68. obtrude	(a) make (b) unnecessary (b) clear (c) sure (d) difficult
69. ostentatious	(a) modest (b) flagrant (c) showy (d) diligent
70. perfunctory	(a) lazy (b) official (c) mechanical (d) unimportant
71. plauds	(a) expression of approval (b) consent (c) detention (d) pleasure
72. prevaricate	(a) substantiate (b) delay (c) lie (d) anticipate
73. pristine	(a) mercurious (b) original (c) expander (d) traditional
74. pervasion	(a) weakness (b) sleep (c) security (d) hardship
75. protege	(a) tribal leader (b) great substitute (c) food element (d) positive particle
76. protuberance	(a) rich soil (b) mud (c) art disorganised (d) emigrate
77. raffish	(a) made of straw (b) ludicrous (c) disparable (d) due to chance
78. rampant	(a) forbidding (b) hostile (c) protective (d) aging unchecked
79. reiterate	(a) stutter (b) repeat (c) reverse (d) transcribe
80. replica	(a) mythical creature (b) answer (c) copy (d) public building
81. retrospect	(a) brief summary (b) survey of the past (c) close examination (d) full payment
82. despoiled	(a) astute (b) bombastic (c) lightly kept (d) fervent
83. roster	(a) seating place (b) professional team (c) speaker's platform (d) list of persons
84. ruminates	(a) shudder (b) digest (c) meditate (d) remove
85. salacious	(a) lively (b) purchasable (c) obscene (d) flavored
86. savant	(a) eloquent agent (b) learned person (c) young student (d) French courtier
87. scintillate	(a) arise completely (b) turn aside (c) examine closely (d) read aloud
88. sile	(a) sandy surface (b) water tower (c) spout for storage (d) medical notes
89. subsidy	(a) replacement (b) financial aid (c) public funds (d) depth charge
90. torpid	(a) stormy (b) hibernating (c) warm (d) inactive
91. travesty	(a) parody (b) song (c) parody (d) deterioration

91. ruseek	(a) soft cushion (b) low hammock (c) branch of grass (d) small hill
92. tycoon	(a) labor leader (b) automatic ruler (c) mystic prophet (d) industrial magnate
93. spheroid	(a) planet (b) approach (c) disease (d) factor
94. vagit	(a) apologetic (b) foggy (c) accelerated (d) shapeless
95. venerable	(a) antique (b) retired (c) imitable (d) worthy of respect
96. vernacular	(a) native speech (b) slang (c) local custom (d) uneducated group
97. vituperation	(a) wordy abuse (b) poisonous liquid (c) honest (d) violent action
98. winnow	(a) blow (b) fish (c) separate (d) machine
99. wry	(a) sad (b) smiling (c) undeserved (d) twisted

## B. Setting-up Exercises

1. accolade	(a) turban (b) small village (c) charm (d) large house
2. arroyo	(a) cliff (b) plain (c) reach (d) gully
3. arrange	(a) save (b) enlarge (c) prohibit (d) rub out
4. atelier	(a) hat shop (b) workshop (c) tea room (d) printer
5. bellicose	(a) peevishness (b) graceful (c) threatening (d) horrifying
6. carnos	(a) large bell (b) wild animal (c) decaying flesh (d) mechanical belt
7. canely	(a) plain (b) tall (c) long-haired (d) handsome
8. contiguous	(a) infectious (b) adjacent (c) accidental (d) unobtrusive
9. cynosure	(a) guiding star (b) safe position (c) master officer (d) self-valiant person
10. delirious	(a) postponement (b) respect (c) pride (d) obligation
11. denouement	(a) negative (b) surmise (c) condemnation (d) outcome
12. ebullient	(a) enthusiastic (b) arrogant (c) lascivious (d) pit-edged
13. éclat	(a) fine party (b) command (c) brilliance (d) suddenness
14. embryonic	(a) hereditary (b) developed (c) functioning (d) rudimentary
15. euphemism	(a) ineffective expression (b) accurate informing (c) affected speech
16. evince	(a) prove (b) reveal (c) conquer (d) drive out

17. excuse (a) defence (b) discrimination (c) example (d) migration
18. extirpate (a) plant (b) make excuses (c) eradicate (d) clear of charges
19. extrude (a) extrude (b) high-priced (c) strange (d) romantic
20. futile (a) baffling (b) fleeing (c) hasty (d) friendly
21. gastronomy (a) stomach distress (b) forecasting (c) art of good eating (d) study of minerals
22. grisly (a) tough (b) horrifying (c) white-haired (d) shaggy
23. gustatory (a) pertaining to taste (b) careful (c) loadstone (d) pertaining to wind currents
24. mature (a) ripen (b) shut in (c) exempt (d) betray
25. immutable (a) debatable (b) unalterable (c) impractical (d) not susceptible
26. impute (a) slander (b) disagree (c) attribute (d) rely on
27. inoculation (a) pouring liquids into wells (b) repeatable (c) magic formula (d) long operative arts
28. insouciant (a) import (b) torture (c) laughing (d) behind
29. inscrutable (a) mad (b) malicious (c) misleading (d) unfathomable
30. leered (a) opposed (b) hardened (c) impoverished (d) degraded
31. levity (a) forgetfulness (b) gentleness (c) increase (d) lappancy
32. livid (a) discolored (b) emotional (c) hollow (d) snarling
33. masticate (a) giganto bound (b) extract elephant (c) throat (d) disease of the ear
34. mazy (a) of various colors (b) undistinguished (c) dirty (d) abundant
35. odious (a) hatred (b) rust (c) taste (d) concern (e) obvious
36. palpable (a) subtle (b) persuasive (c) excited (d) obvious
37. parch (a) prophet (b) skin disease (c) tribal head (d) distant
38. parsimonious (a) stingy (b) hypocritical (c) stiff (d) poverty-stricken
39. pragmatic (a) perplexing (b) ideal (c) practical (d) experienced
40. profligacy (a) forward motion (b) wickedness (c) productivity (d) ability to forecast the future



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 41. prophylactic | (a) curative (b) toxic (c) preventive<br>(d) sterile                              |
| 42. proselyte    | (a) falsifier (b) convert (c) essayist (d) distinguished person                   |
| 43. quarrel      | (a) patching (b) quarrel (c) ill-tempered<br>(d) unacquainted                     |
| 44. recidive     | (a) master (b) aged person (c) woman-hater<br>(d) bankrupt                        |
| 45. reconviction | (a) double jeopardy (b) battery (c) needless repetition<br>(d) counter-accusation |
| 46. reproof      | (a) demonstration (b) censure (c) check<br>(d) strengthening                      |
| 47. sanguinary   | (a) hopeful (b) unknown (c) unnecessary<br>(d) bloody                             |
| 48. squalid      | (a) storied (b) enclosed (c) filthy<br>(d) humble                                 |
| 49. truncate     | (a) and readily (b) cut off (c) act cruelly<br>(d) cancel                         |
| 50. urbane       | (a) early (b) congested (c) shrewd<br>(d) polished                                |

### III. Wordlog 5/p

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1 adjunct    | (a) adaptation (b) addition (c) decrease<br>(d) solitons oath                                  |
| 2 aphorism   | (a) wise saying (b) digression (c) casual remark<br>(d) repetition                             |
| 3 arbiter    | (a) leader of a team (b) party to a dispute<br>(c) judge (d) shop worker                       |
| 4 arraign    | (a) call to court (b) convict (c) serve on jury<br>(d) put in order                            |
| 5 arrant     | (a) laughily (b) boastful (c) downright<br>(d) cowardly  |
| 6 asperity   | (a) harshness (b) slander (c) sour taste<br>(d) lost hope                                      |
| 7 atavism    | (a) canine tooth (b) disease (c) flow-like<br>(d) star-shaped                                  |
| 8 attingent  | (a) styptic (b) flexible (c) thin<br>(d) powerful  |
| 9 aversive   | (a) fright carefully (b) make thin<br>(c) achieve (d) imply                                    |
| 10 attrition | (a) wearing down (b) charms (c) brushness<br>(d) seawards                                      |
| 11. bastion  | (a) part of a fortification (b) column<br>(c) coat of mail (d) stitching                       |
| 12. beindled | (a) bewilder (b) having dark streaks on gray background<br>(c) held by a tether<br>(d) pickled |

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

- (1) buffet (a) cold meat (b) blow (c) clown (d) none  
decider
14. burglar (a) ill tempered (b) colliding (c) bravely  
self sacrifices (d) dishonest
15. censor (a) pendulum (b) container for burning  
incense (c) balance (d) guardian of  
public morals
16. choler (a) hunger (b) typhus (c) sadness (d) anger
17. concordat (a) agreement (b) document (c) indrom-  
ment (d) lesson
18. conglomeration (a) fit of insanity (b) cluster (c) jolly  
(d) brilliant thought
19. contrite (a) confuse (b) aware (c) scold  
(d) interpret
20. contingent (a) contractual (b) conditional (c) expo-  
ditionary (d) universal
21. corollary (a) consequence (b) artery of the heart  
(c) enclosure for cattle (d) part of a  
flower
22. cress (a) beetle (b) established (c) gross (d) rare
23. cubicle (a) geometric figure (b) small bedroom  
(c) measure of length (d) sailing craft
24. curmudgeon (a) cheerful fellow (b) buffoon (c) high  
anger (d) tropical fish
25. detach (a) corrupt (b) open a bottle (c) branch  
off (d) chopen
26. debilitate (a) attack (b) weaken (c) become acce-  
sioned (d) overwhelm
27. decedent (a) antiseptic (b) subtle (c) occurring  
every ten years (d) deteriorating
28. demise (a) false statement (b) death (c) revenge  
(d) stage set
29. depreciation (a) disapproval (b) decrease in value  
(c) wanding off (d) plundering
30. deusa (a) governess (b) royal lady (c) ball-  
fighter's assistant (d) jail-keeper
31. effigy (a) image (b) fireplace (c) scaffold  
(a) attachment
32. expatiate (a) go one's mile (b) expand (c) pardon  
(d) watch out for
33. fgment (a) pure invention (b) small part (c) art  
of the poetical (d) wordlessness
34. fable (a) animal story (b) frailty (c) deceptive  
scheme (d) decoration
35. foment (a) instigate (b) drive insane (c) starch  
(d) whip into a froth
36. foray (a) food for cattle (b) campaign hat  
(c) halfshaven (d) raid
37. furbelow (a) decorative trimming (b) weak trait

	(b) continued till (d) small stove
38. galaxy	(a) source (b) ring (c) dairy (d) profit
39. givality	(a) untamable nature (b) talkativeness (c) simple-mindedness (d) cheapness
40. hybrid	(a) of mixed origin (b) spirited (c) well-mannered (d) poor
41. inkub	(a) sprinkle (b) dress (c) inspire (d) pardon
42. inoperable	(a) incapable of being weighed (b) very small (c) unsuitable (d) of tremendous importance
43. inadvertence	(a) oversight (b) inflexibility (c) lack of accuracy (d) hatred
44. incidence	(a) opening (b) number of cases (c) smaller event (d) cutting loss
45. incontinent	(a) not happy (b) completely surrounded (c) innumerable (d) unrestrained
46. inefable	(a) speechless (b) immense (c) rude (d) unspeakable
47. iniquitous	(a) wicked (b) biased (c) excessively suspicious (d) unequal
48. innuendo	(a) investigation (b) foul language (c) imitative (d) hinting
49. innumerate	(a) amounts (b) sagged (c) without feeling (d) easily stirred
50. intoner	(a) in haste (b) during this month (c) at once (d) pleadingly
51. interlunary	pertaining to: (a) mislaid shoe (b) provisional legal decision (c) long sermon (d) cross-examination
52. jowl	(a) jaw (b) taste (c) following (d) small jar
53. katal	(a) flat bread (b) small vegetable (c) bar above a door (d) better spice
54. kismet	(a) destiny (b) than (c) supple (d) inactive
55. lary	(a) legal alteration (b) popular change (c) series of similar responses (d) deep noise
56. lugubrious	(a) mournful (b) sleek (c) deceitful (d) consolatory
57. marudal	(a) musical (b) rape (c) devotional (d) early
58. naphes	(a) deep sigh (b) act of chance (c) criminal mutilation (d) murder
59. noxiousness	(a) bring (b) extremely painstaking (c) irresistible (d) nascent
60. micant	(a) minimal basis (b) slender tower (c) prayer rug (d) tyrant
61. mollification	(a) washing with soap (b) softening ruffled feeling (c) dressing expensively (d) slight change

62. none	(a) beam (b) soar (c) water-filled ditch (d) speak
63. obsequies	(a) justification (b) conduct (c) deference (d) forethought
64. ascertain	(a) know (b) vibrate (c) tell time (d) seal a document
65. pachyderm	(a) thick-skinned animal (b) skin erup- tion (c) heavy cloth (d) leather travel- ing bag
66. palliate	(a) cast gloom over (b) relieve without curing (c) make a mistress (d) daffie
67. perfidy	(a) confidence (b) treachery (c) clostony (d) insolence
68. peruse	(a) exhaust (b) change (c) read through (d) combine
69. pictorial	relating to (a) fortunetelling (b) fishing (c) letter-writing (d) portraiture
70. placidude	(a) time (b) level (c) beautiful (d) emotional
71. promissory	(a) ill-fated (b) warning in advance (c) peculiar (d) financial
72. probity	(a) honesty (b) nearness (c) definite proof (d) investigation
73. propinquity	(a) absolute proof (b) searching quality (c) nearness (d) stampoon
74. prosody	(a) art of versification (b) concert (c) treachery (d) unimaginative writing
75. proflit	(a) martyr (b) scholar (c) vain person (d) gap-writer
76. quavious	(a) humorally complaining (b) question- ing (c) seeking seriously (d) whimsical
77. rancor	(a) bitter resentment (b) pride (c) attach- ment (d) superciliousness
78. raucous	(a) gregarious (b) harsh-sounding (c) im- mature (d) despairing
79. radiant	(a) grieving (b) fragment (c) needy (d) luxy
80. regimen	(a) systematic diet (b) royal attendant (c) conquered province (d) distinction
81. requite	(a) punish (b) favor (c) repay (d) spare
82. revolution	(a) backward motion (b) change of gov- ernment (c) degradation (d) sudden change of feeling
83. tunnel	(a) small stream (b) palanquin (c) race track (d) underground passage
84. sapient	(a) busy (b) favorable (c) wise (d) dried up
85. sartorial	(a) well-dressed (b) relating to a tailor (c) costly (d) busy
86. simultaneous	(a) pretended (b) mocked (c) compared (d) done at same time

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

87. dike	(a) pond between wars (b) artificial water channel (c) a great number (d) microscope action
88. expedite	(a) adolescent (b) indiscreet (c) inducing sleep (d) trouble-making
89. spine	(a) headful (b) flood (c) spade-shaped (d) rubber hose
90. supererogatory	(a) beyond belief (b) additional (c) countless (d) petty officer
91. tactile	(a) distrust (b) capable of being touched (c) of a quiet disposition (d) attached to a wall
92. talon	(a) buzzard (b) card game (c) claw (d) hunting horn
93. unobtrusive	(a) equivalent (b) psychic (c) superior (d) far-removed
94. terrapin	(a) defensive earthwork (b) small diamond (c) ocean covering (d) turtle
95. trudge	(a) demeanor (b) hacker (c) with special favor (d) show servility
96. truculent	(a) jury (b) farouche (c) trashy (d) servile
97. trocha	(a) small cart (b) bearded jacket (c) treeless arctic plain (d) mossy growth
98. virulent	(a) over-sweeping (b) venomous (c) sturdy (d) sudden
99. vixen	(a) clear up (b) corrupt (c) act as umpire (d) put life into
100. wicker	(a) turned (b) heat (c) lampness (d) morning

### IV. Getting Tough

1. abatement	(a) unsuccess (b) difficult problem (c) washing (d) flight
2. abrade	(a) twist (b) wear off (c) attack (d) scold
3. abstruse	(a) musing (b) sprawling (c) obscure (d) stupid
4. abut	(a) collide with (b) touch (c) deny (d) make excuse for
5. aggressive	(a) scientific farmer (b) aggressive action (c) held head (d) humorist
6. amicable	(a) papers (b) paperations (c) courtesies (d) social functions
7. amortization	(a) sudden death (b) long delay (c) liquidation (d) small refund
8. amaze	(a) keen wit (b) hostile feeling (c) great courage (d) friendship
9. apary	(a) bird cage (b) high flying (c) set of -beehives (d) house for primates

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

10. amble (a) willing to agree (b) dehydrated (c) apt  
anxiously practical (d) amiable for  
collaboration
11. arbiterment (a) acidity (b) consultation (c) final judg-  
ment (d) supercilious look
12. atrophy (a) sudden change (b) lack of sunlight  
(c) wearing away (d) affinity
13. baleful (a) overflowing (b) pernicious (c) unshel-  
led (d) serious
14. ballistics (a) study of bullets (b) art of balancing  
(c) art of juggling (d) study of weights
15. barouche (a) jeweled clip (b) veranda (c) carriage  
(d) fancy headpiece
16. bemused (a) enchanted (b) entertained (c) lost in  
thought (d) ridiculous
17. bespeak (a) engage far in advance (b) be critical  
of (c) praise (d) progress
18. bifurcated (a) forked (b) ploughed (c) stabbed  
(d) reduced
19. blatant (a) amiable (b) cheapish (c) boastful  
(d) noisy
20. caligary (a) warmth (b) slander (c) contradiction  
(d) relaxation
21. capillary (a) pertaining to (b) head (c) chapter (d) thin  
tube (e) chest
22. cartographer (a) homed peedler (b) league secretary  
(c) explorer (d) mapmaker
23. catapact (a) had (b) drive (c) struggle (d) cause  
violent change
24. cawd (a) beguile (b) praise (c) compare (d) pick  
flaws
25. celibate (a) unmarried (b) leafy (c) wild  
(d) heavenly
26. centrifugal (a) symmetrical (b) flying from a center  
(c) divisive (d) fearful
27. ceramic (a) old stamps (b) rocks (c) pottery  
(d) food
28. codell (a) signature code (b) small item (c) ad-  
dition to a will (d) remainder
29. cogitate (a) know (b) of common origin  
(c) wheel-shaped (d) substantial
30. colander (a) Eastern piece (b) container  
(c) strainer (d) grader
31. comarose (a) unconscious (b) debauched (c) obsti-  
nate (d) practical
32. compendium (a) notebook (b) full explanation (c) re-  
print (d) comprehensive summary
33. complant (a) desert (b) variety (c) partnership in  
crime (d) relief from debt

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

33. contentment	(a) accompanying (b) reserved (c) unnecessary (d) half-asleep
34. crotchety	(a) eccentric (b) boring (c) kinked badly (d) broken down
35. crest	(a) bottle (b) cube (c) napkin (d) oil
36. deleterious	(a) moderate (b) charming (c) harmful (d) informative
37. despondent	(a) given to changing moods (b) unhappy person (c) confused drunkard (d) vampire
38. disparity	(a) parity (b) rigorous (c) injustice (d) malice
39. disputatious	(a) halcyon (b) argumentative (c) insular (d) contradictory
40. dissemble	(a) refuse to imitate (b) spread about (c) pretend (d) learn
41. distrust	(a) about-minded (b) affected (c) separated (d) inconvenienced
42. doggerel	(a) short slogan (b) trivial verse (c) small pot (d) snapshot
43. effluent	(a) burning (b) secret (c) emergency (d) radiant
44. effulgent	(a) decorous magnificently (b) set fire to (c) preserve (d) set an example
45. elucidate	(a) dismember (b) bring out into view (c) attract (d) make less sticky
46. emaciated	(a) acid (b) make more bitter (c) eat out (d) had insects
47. enervate	(a) reveal (b) elaborate (c) drain (d) develop
48. expostulation	(a) afterthought (b) earnest appeal (c) illustration (d) wallet threat
49. extant	(a) still in existence (b) no longer in existence (c) outstanding (d) valueless
50. fibrils	(a) nervous (b) feverish (c) slight (d) moody
51. flaccid	(a) frayed (b) arched (c) flamed-out (d) grooved
52. frons	(a) pediment (b) ornamental strip (c) top section (d) niche
53. frond	(a) superstructure (b) stem (c) heading tree (d) leaf
54. liberal	(a) Irish (b) Spanish (c) windy (d) vegetative
55. laudable	(a) laudatory (b) informed (c) famous (d) microscopic
56. impetuous	(a) moral (b)iggardly (c) begging (d) poor

# WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

58. importunate (a) unful (b) unyielding (c) immense (d) valuable
59. lachrymose (a) delicate (b) milky (c) weedy (d) weepy
60. lexicographer (a) shorthand expert (b) dictionary author (c) typesetter (d) singer
61. limpid (a) transparent (b) dissolute (c) obscure (d) crippled
62. macerate (a) strike (b) disfigure (c) cut up (d) soften by soaking
63. malleable (a) permeable (b) pliant (c) strong (d) punctureproof
64. metaphoric (a) renowned (b) sensitive (c) isolated (d) undergoing changes
65. miasm (a) deep swamp (b) potent drug (c) dirty spell (d) poisonous exhalation
66. misogynist (a) misuser (b) no-one-do-well (c) woman-hater (d) under
67. moodant (a) depressed (b) towering (c) sarcastic (d) mild
68. myopic (a) obscure (b) short-sighted (c) big-hearted (d) negligent
69. olfactory pertaining to (a) sense of smell (b) manufacture of perfume (c) perfume (d) design
70. perilous (a) dangerous (b) talkative (c) agreeable (d) uncertain
71. peroxym (a) reflection (b) speechlessness (c) contamination (d) fit
72. peremptory (a) unusual (b) decisive (c) abrupt (d) warning
73. pertinacious (a) stubbornly persistent (b) related (c) bold (d) unbarbed
74. potent (a) eloquent (b) awkward (c) controversial (d) dispiriting
75. predatory (a) plundering (b) anticipating (c) powerful (d) voracious
76. predilection (a) forecast (b) preference (c) earliest remembrance (d) gratification
77. precept (a) vacate (b) substantiate (c) establish precedent (d) place a bet
78. propaenar (a) supporter (b) descendant (c) forefather (d) director
79. prolixity (a) tedious length (b) lack of firmness (c) narrowness (d) common
80. propitiate (a) approach (b) influence (c) conform (d) appease
81. proscenium (a) first part of a stage (b) first act of a play (c) box-office receipts (d) act of trespass



## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

82. proponent	(a) opponent (b) chief participant (c) rebel (d) weakling
83. provender	(a) thimble (b) dry food for animals (c) hawk (d) careful person
84. refractory	(a) disobedient (b) easily broken (c) tele- scopic (d) faultfinding
85. relegate	(a) relieve (b) banish (c) put in order (d) sit together
86. anecdotal	(a) hallowed (b) priority (c) sweet-tasting (d) unmarked
87. ungainly	(a) modest (b) hopeful (c) proud (d) clever
88. urined	(a) softened (b) notched (c) panned (d) crowded together
89. upbraid	(a) act of plundering (b) cheer (c) gump- ing (d) act of coddling
90. unrepentant	(a) wicked (b) clandestine (c) cautious (d) cowardly
91. usurer	(a) charm (b) juror (c) informer (d) lecturer
92. verisimilitude	(a) unreliable (b) shrewish (c) desperate (d) busy
93. vernacular	(a) technicality (b) finality (c) exploration (d) nonsequence
94. verity	(a) verifiability (b) professionally (c) experi- mentally (d) usually
95. vibraphone	(a) percussion instrument (b) warning (c) quality of none (d) unusual string
96. transcend	(a) move about freely (b) degrade (c) go beyond (d) delay
97. unadorned	(a) import (b) absolute (c) dishonest (d) insistent
98. vernal	(a) necessary (b) surprising (c) sensitive (d) related to spring
99. virago	(a) mistress (b) dove (c) clown (d) strong wind
100. vintner	(a) elector (b) legal partner (c) cavity (d) worshiper

## F. Tough

1. abrogation (a) association (b) reconstruction (c) afflu-  
ence (d) indignation
2. absolute (a) positiveness (b) largeness (c) pos-  
session (d) religious explanation
3. accostments (a) scaled orders (b) equipment (c) cor-  
respondence (d) financial records

4. acerb (a) foreign (b) dangerous (c) harsh (d) unsettling
5. agglomeration (a) vegetation (b) clattering (c) concretion (d) combined mass
6. amalgam (a) counterclaim (b) chemical compound (c) para-soother (d) medicine
7. anomalous (a) smaller (b) abnormal (c) unexplainable (d) shapeless
8. aphasia (a) forgetfulness (b) loss of memory (c) loss of speech (d) loss of dignity
9. apposite (a) extreme (b) unusual (c) apposite (d) appropos
10. apprise (a) estimate (b) inform (c) award (d) draw close
11. apparition (a) communion (b) insurance (c) wholeness (d) ancestry
12. arrogate (a) belittle (b) assume presumptuously (c) show pride (d) question harshly
13. articulation (a) accent (b) dialect (c) enunciation (d) impediment
14. ascetic (a) unprovoked (b) pale (c) sterile (d) self-denying
15. asyde (a) irregularly clean (b) poisonous (c) seven-sided (d) star shaped
16. asperse (a) rival (b) defame (c) deny (d) slander
17. asseveration (a) separation (b) indignation (c) assertion (d) rejection
18. astral (a) aerial (b) fluorescent (c) stellar (d) geometric
19. atavism (a) pertaining to (b) anachronism (c) out (d) down (e) gold
20. baroque (a) extravagantly ornamented (b) baronial (c) medieval (d) made of small chips
21. beleaguered (a) warned (b) belittled (c) surrounded (d) joined together
22. besky (a) wooded (b) vague (c) sly (d) stout
23. brackish (a) salty (b) weakly (c) swampy (d) slightly acid
24. baroque (a) long rope (b) bearded clerk (c) Indian handkerchief (d) Oriental food
25. categorically (a) generally (b) retroactively (c) without qualification (d) relatively
26. collate (a) demonstrate clearly (b) compare (c) draw together (d) arrange correctly
27. colloquy (a) derivative (b) altercation (c) conference (d) difference of opinion
28. conestibles (a) odds and ends (b) superior products (c) spices (d) foodstuffs

29. commensurate (a) punctual (b) proportionate (c) acquainted with (d) certain
30. confabulate (a) embroider on (b) chat (c) muddle (d) put an end to
31. contemner (a) quarelsome (b) keeping pace with (c) happy (d) ambitious
32. culvert (a) stream (b) drowning (c) tillage (d) drain
33. debenture (a) account rendered (b) bond (c) strong-hold (d) servitude
34. delirious (a) critical (b) not evergreen (c) trifling (d) downcast
35. decrepitude (a) lame (b) slow pace (c) seaward (d) enfeeblement
36. deliquescent (a) glittering (b) sparkling (c) attractive (d) macramé
37. denude (a) degrading (b) popular (c) fringed (d) damped
38. depilate (a) how to (b) unpack (c) remove hair (d) put off
39. didactic (a) boring (b) vehement (c) adorative (d) merely
40. drom (a) larkspur (b) thin thread (c) Chinese temple (d) wata water
41. effete (a) wore out (b) effeminate (c) unrealistic (d) malodorous
42. emendation (a) elimination (b) legislative proposal (c) correction (d) probe
43. enervate (a) calm down (b) weaken (c) pop up (d) lure on
44. enjoin (a) account (b) please (c) state (d) prohibit
45. fervor (a) foolishness (b) enigma (c) lack (d) causality
46. feraciously (a) validity (b) poverty (c) fertility (d) depth
47. fetid (a) sticky (b) exhausted (c) desire (d) mechanical
48. flagitious (a) rapid (b) transitory (c) irresponsible (d) fanciful
49. gambit (a) opening move (b) traffic (c) hazard (d) cut of meat
50. gregarious (a) and suddenly (b) associate (c) spread disease (d) spread
51. grandiloquent (a) gorgeous (b) diminishing (c) pompous (d) genuine
52. hail (a) weight (b) leather pouch (c) handle (d) weapon

13. hardly (a) serene (b) porous (c) ridge  
(d) solding
14. heyday (a) unpleasant sound (b) teenboy (c) small  
animal (d) old con
15. inplacable (a) fuzzy (b) unappeasable (c) discolored  
(d) well hidden
16. imprimatur (a) censorship (b) official approval  
(c) movable type (d) significant event
17. inaction (a) sickness (b) stricture (c) scepticism  
(d) paucity
18. inauspicious (a) subtle (b) inconspicuous (c) giving  
offense (d) apt
19. laity (a) religious chant (b) responsibility  
(c) covering (d) laymen
20. laudations (a) sanctified (b) wisdom (c) self-sufficing  
(d) dramatic
21. lignous (a) explosive (b) woodlike (c) related  
(d) rocklike
22. limbo (a) embarrassing situation (b) catch-  
phrase (c) a place of forgotten things  
(d) identification
23. infernal pertaining to (a) a tomb (b) lower order  
of monks (c) cross-of-mind (d) marble
24. mason (a) hanger-on (b) wing (c) small measure  
(d) power
25. minuscule (a) terrifying (b) delicate (c) small  
(d) colorless
26. moves (a) slide (b) use (c) fixed customs  
(d) dignity
27. moribund (a) superficial (b) dying (c) gloomy  
(d) stagnant
28. olla (a) tendency (b) sacrifice (c) refuse  
(d) person
29. orribund (a) stout (b) house (c) resistant (d) pitted
30. paucity (a) confusion (b) short rest (c) emptiness  
(d) means
31. pendulous (a) lustrous (b) hanging down loosely  
(c) making an arc (d) concrete
32. played (a) dually (b) weakly (c) rainy (d) jolly
33. prelude (a) raise the curtain (b) make sure  
(c) prevent (d) forestall
34. predicate (a) base upon (b) follow (c) prejudge  
(d) speak boldly
35. prebend (a) before recorded history (b) without  
written record (c) capable of grasping  
(d) forwarding
36. privy (a) doing without (b) sharing secret  
knowledge (c) underprivileged  
(d) uncertain ad

77. prodigality	(a) lavishment (b) stimulus (c) sufficiency (d) negligence
78. perodactyl	(a) poem first (b) irregular petals (c) fly- ing reptile (d) poisonous rodent
79. equine	(a) large clam (b) bog (c) underbrush (d) gradual rise
80. query	(a) jealous (b) peculiar (c) out of tune (d) acquainted
81. archaic	(a) old-fashioned (b) modest (c) marling (d) choice
82. malle	(a) likely (b) shensible (c) inducing laugh- ter (d) abhorring
83. salubrious	(a) flawed (b) beautiful (c) low (d) purging
84. machimonious	(a) hypocritical (b) upright (c) cowardly (d) hypocritically devout
85. semantic	(a) Boreas (b) pertaining to meaning (c) highlighting (d) emotional
86. senescent	(a) rebirth (b) belied as heretofore (c) be- ginning of old age (d) growing
87. septic	(a) infected (b) heavy (c) varied (d) startled
88. acquiescent	(a) proceeding (b) isolated (c) always ques- tioning (d) following
89. umbrin	(a) bluish (b) resembling (c) apothecary (d) toothed
90. specious	(a) detestable (b) silent (c) plausible (d) qualified
91. sporadic	(a) momentary (b) occurring at irregular intervals (c) drawn out (d) enclosed
92. apine	(a) scars (b) foam (c) decoration (d) venom
93. reprieve	(a) precede (b) displace (c) interfere (d) cease
94. surcease	(a) survival (b) end (c) relief (d) onslaught
95. suture	(a) dressing (b) wound (c) surgical stitch (d) decay
96. touchstone	(a) craggy rock (b) lucky charm (c) ped- estal (d) criterion
97. usque	(a) unconfirmed report (b) official edict (c) Russian hat (d) worn order
98. unchryse	(a) sweetest (b) burnish (c) delight (d) meditation
99. unobtainable	(a) unattainable (b) extensive (c) unmanage- able (d) distant
100. wrath	(a) uncontrolled anger (b) mist (c) deep concern (d) apocry

F7. Tougher

1. actually (a) normally (b) mathematically (c) by virtue of office (d) according to insurance ratings
2. alembic (a) chemical formula (b) distilling vessel (c) rhythmic foot (d) drinking mug
3. anabasis (a) scriptuous level (b) heading ornament (c) forever only (d) perfume base
4. anathema (a) curse (b) pen (c) manual subject (d) religious chant
5. auxiliary (a) hooked-on (b) pertaining to the axle (c) auxiliary (d) self-evident
6. apothegm (a) parallel story (b) high point (c) glandular secretion (d) pithy saying
7. apothecary (a) glorification (b) religious controversy (c) conclusion (d) relation
8. archetype (a) model (b) diabetic nurse (c) marmoset (d) pointed arch
9. astrolabe (a) planetary body (b) ship's rigging (c) sunspot (d) astronomical instrument
10. avarice (a) shameful (b) selfishness (c) overness (d) provision
11. balise (a) balise cone (b) transparent cotton (c) imported cone (d) feltlike fibre
12. beaute (a) orderly (b) beautiful (c) blisful (d) remote
13. belian (a) blind (b) dress quickly (c) under-nourish (d) confine
14. birch (a) northern tree (b) marsh bird (c) endorsement (d) part of a harness
15. breviary (a) last words (b) prayer book (c) short journal (d) authority
16. burgoon (a) brown (b) banner (c) sprout (d) beg
17. cabal (a) sunspot (b) mystical doctrine (c) instruction (d) selfishness
18. cadps (a) imprison (b) hicker (c) hide (d) beg
19. calligraphy (a) mathematical measurement (b) dance composition (c) handwriting (d) manual page
20. centopetal (a) attached to the center (b) head-shaped (c) electric in drugs (d) tending to deceive
21. cheetah (a) unweathered bird (b) catlike animal (c) Charent sailing vessel (d) small prayer rug
22. coach (a) spiral shell (b) heavy blow (c) wooden blanket (d) thick strap

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

23. convoluted	(a) transformed (b) knotted (c) accompanied (d) coiled
24. countervailing	(a) losing (b) compensating for (c) bargaining (d) winning
25. demerit	(a) witness (b) region of activity (c) good behavior (d) reprimand
26. demotic	(a) fraternal (b) crissed (c) pertaining to language (d) belonging to the people
27. dialectic	(a) occasion (b) allocation (c) logical argument (d) reading
28. disquisition	(a) utterance (b) formal request (c) stemmed hat (d) elaborate treatise
29. dissemble	(a) conceal one's motives (b) break up (c) disagree (d) overlook
30. dodger	(a) resentment (b) small fish (c) underground cell (d) pride
31. eloquent	(a) laudatory (b) sorrowful (c) farcious (d) desirable
32. empirical	(a) celestial (b) ruling absolutely (c) imaginary (d) based on experience
33. encomium	(a) friendship (b) eulogize (c) paucity (d) revenue
34. endemic	(a) suffering from loss of blood (b) perpetual (c) related to internal medicine (d) peculiar to a locality
35. effluvia	(a) rake with garden (b) slip inside of (c) cut into strips (d) stack in a heap
36. esulent	(a) edible (b) hungry (c) thick (d) livable
37. euthenics	(a) doctrine of life after death (b) sources of improving environment (c) theory of human origin (d) belief in "mercy-killings"
38. exorcise	(a) expel an evil spirit (b) impress (c) trace thoroughly (d) water
39. feckless	(a) light-hearted (b) shillous (c) melodramatic (d) stingy
40. flee	(a) mass of floating ice (b) Arctic hut (c) water sport (d) white cedar
41. frustion	(a) perambulation (b) realization (c) seed dispersal (d) temporary use
42. fustian	(a) patriotic (b) maddy (c) pretentious (d) antique
43. hackles	(a) small beads (b) worn-out horses (c) bristles on dog's back (d) open carriage
44. harlotry	(a) curved dagger (b) proud lady (c) vicious hag (d) long cape
45. hectic	(a) superior (b) clarified (c) poorly (d) uncertain

# WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

46. indefatigable	(a) unrepentable (b) unescapable (c) opaque (d) transparent
47. unspiguable	(a) slow to anger (b) unconquerable (c) detestful (d) unexcusable
48. interstices	(a) cracks (b) small openings (c) digni- tary (d) assistants
49. kinetic	pertaining to: (a) gas (b) motion (c) study of national groups (d) theory of heredity
50. lexiarn	(a) reference book (b) reading desk (c) storm lantern (d) literary reference
51. tribulation	(a) battle (b) degradable (c) discolored (d) headstrong
52. mandril	(a) narcotic herb (b) balloon (c) tropical fruit (d) ancient musical instrument
53. manuscript	(a) copy by hand (b) set free (c) road posts (d) memorias
54. marmoset	(a) tapers (b) tile (c) rodent (d) small monkey
55. menatory	(a) spiral (b) threatening (c) massive (d) wandering
56. macramé	(a) misadventured person (b) victim (c) scoundrel (d) snail
57. necromancy	(a) massacre (b) machinery (c) black magic (d) higher mathematics
58. overweening	(a) smug (b) arrogant (c) pampering (d) massive
59. pennier	(a) basket (b) paper (c) small pen (d) brooch
60. pastiche	(a) fine water (b) small pill (c) dramatic (d) imitative artistic composition
61. patina	(a) greenish film on metal (b) gloss (c) ancient pottery (d) Latin-Ameri- can courtyard
62. pluck	(a) square stone base (b) crossbeam (c) kneeling material (d) large tomb
63. polity	(a) rules of etiquette (b) insure of office (c) basic structure of a government (d) diplomatic action
64. postprandial	(a) after sunlight (b) after-dinner (c) dilatory (d) posthumous
65. prosodial	(a) low-rate (b) numerous (c) original (d) predestined
66. propitious	(a) closely related (b) before birth (c) having a quarrelsome disposition (d) having promising power
67. purblind	(a) scattered (b) dawning (c) lacking vi- sion (d) incomprehensible



# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

66. refulgent	(a) brilliant (b) unstable (c) decaying (d) supersonic
67. rime	(a) sediment (b) lilt (c) foam (d) frost frost
68. salver	(a) salute (b) trap (c) sediment (d) reactor
69. sapid	(a) flavorless (b) wise (c) spirited (d) stupid
70. scurf	(a) manual attendant (b) rough water (c) coarse linen (d) dandruff
71. instantaneous	(a) quibbling (b) filled with merriment (c) emotional (d) imaginative
72. sentient	(a) unconscious (b) harmonizing (c) sub- conscious (d) wrong
73. slylike	(a) knowing (b) oracular (c) humorous (d) poetic
74. amulet	(a) persuasive speech (b) candle-holder (c) shadowy likeness (d) coincidence
75. urbane	(a) hot wind (b) further landing (c) style of painting (d) contingent danger
76. volatility	(a) temperance (b) fellowship (c) solemnity (d) aggressiveness
77. mercurial	(a) least-voiced (b) moving (c) undecided (d) persistent
78. strident	(a) theory (b) emergency (c) severe criticism (d) contention
79. stultify	(a) revile (b) make a fool of (c) confuse (d) hinder progress
80. supernal	(a) seedless (b) heavenly (c) offbeat (d) hapless
81. symbiotic	(a) living in close association (b) attacking host (c) verbal (d) evolutionary
82. utterance	(a) music (b) rapacious (c) obscuration (d) mythical monster
83. cowering	(a) cowardly (b) watchful (c) rash (d) delicate
84. tenuous	(a) overlapping (b) fragile (c) gleamy (d) obvious
85. totem	(a) family poison (b) alarm bell (c) charm (d) decor
86. tresser	(a) ecclesiastical robe (b) masked passage (c) shaving of the head (d) vibration
87. transmogrify	(a) change completely (b) haunt (c) pursue (d) terrify
88. traumatic	(a) dreamy (b) magic (c) caused by wound (d) turbulent
89. trencherman	(a) ditch digger (b) hearty eater (c) foot soldier (d) hospital attendant
90. troglodyte	(a) prehistoric animal (b) figure of speech (c) cave dweller (d) grotesque story

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

93 trumpet	(a) deceptive maneuver (b) loud blast (c) easy victory (d) showy trick
94 usual	(a) heated (b) pulled up (c) rates (d) enclosed
95 torpidity	(a) beauty (b) depravity (c) gloominess (d) weakness
96 history	(a) protective (b) subordinate (c) official (d) ingenious
97 unweaned	(a) not baptized (b) smelting (c) neglected (d) unpleasant
98 vertiginous	(a) avoidable (b) dizzy (c) upright (d) greenish
99 wane	(a) decay (b) corrupt (c) shrink (d) glow
100 whimsy	(a) temporary (b) quaint (c) positive (d) former

PA. Star Tonight

1. adumbrate	(a) be silent (b) foreshadow (c) serve (d) color
2. affiliate	(a) affiliate agent (b) betrothed (c) sub- sive (d) confidential agent
3. anamnesis	(a) abrupt remark (b) disapproving comment (c) commendation (d) lengthy explanation
4. annal	(a) patch (b) inner (c) longer (d) commence
5. anthropomorphize	(a) distinguish (b) having human form (c) exceptional (d) geological
6. apologue	(a) afterthought (b) explanation (c) an- cient legend (d) moral fable
7. atrepe	(a) halo (b) gold cloth (c) bird (d) virtuous
8. austral	(a) severe (b) mythical (c) eastern (d) southern
9. benison	(a) blessing (b) afflict (c) charm (d) issue
10. bevil	(a) theft (b) precious mass (c) edge of chisel (d) kind of nut
11. bibulous	(a) thicken (b) small book (c) idle chatter (d) article of sailor's wear
12. bibulous	(a) fingers (b) southern vegetable (c) ago- nists (d) affluence
13. brumage	(a) trash (b) senseless chatter (c) foul odor (d) neighborhood
14. buccal	(a) nasal (b) pertaining to mouth (c) pharyngeal (d) shrewd

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

15. cabala	(a) commotion (b) conspiracy (c) secret source (d) scholarly
16. caress	(a) rippling sound (b) surgical operation (c) awe (d) rhythmic break
17. caniff	(a) person of low character (b) species of leopard (c) judicial officer (d) defendant in a lawsuit
18. carious	(a) decayed (b) solenous (c) covered with sores (d) blighted
19. caryatid	(a) kind of beetle (b) turtle shell (c) painted dental decay (d) sculptured female figure used as a support
20. catharsis	(a) is a Chinese manner (b) eternal damnation (c) inner stress (d) emotional relief
21. chaffin	(a) small bird (b) gossip (c) haggle (d) vex
22. chicanery	(a) owner (b) secretive (c) urgent (d) guile
23. chameleon	(a) partner (b) arbitrator (c) assistant (d) extra terror
24. civility	(a) beauty (b) usage (c) counsel (d) courtesy
25. colossus	(a) blockhouse (b) overvalued ownership (c) large warehouse (d) trading in shares
26. concatenated	(a) surrounding (b) indented (c) hollow (d) linked together
27. coalesce	(a) dispute (b) mar (c) convict (d) struggle with
28. contravene	(a) substitute (b) thwart (c) balance (d) juxtapose
29. coterminous	(a) slander (b) adeptness (c) defiance of authority (d) account
30. count	(a) article of attire (b) milk dash (c) wheedling speech (d) get lunch
31. cozen	(a) convince (b) flatter (c) cheat (d) rebuke
32. deign	(a) deny (b) despise (c) ridicule (d) irritate
33. denigrate	(a) shoot off (b) pull up by the roots (c) tear to shreds (d) slow down
34. denude	(a) dress (b) suit style of cooking (c) persuasive talk (d) skepticism
35. derelict	(a) frustrated (b) uncomfortable (c) unpleasant (d) reduced
36. effluent	(a) fragment (b) soothing (c) milky (d) compensatory
37. effuse	(a) centralized (b) sweet-smelling (c) having narrow margin (d) well-educated
38. encephalon	(a) throat (b) kerbs (c) cliff (d) thigh

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

39. exhaust	(a) confute (b) reticulate (c) avoid (d) chew thoroughly
40. exordium	(a) beginning of a speech (b) plea (c) ex- tempore (d) final appeal
41. faux	(a) fabulous (b) ample (c) booth (d) willing
42. furrier	(a) landlord of an inn (b) carriage maker (c) blacksmith (d) tanner
43. gravid	(a) solemn (b) pregnant (c) hoier (d) formidable
44. gaudon	(a) toward (b) shield (c) watchman (d) old watch
45. hortatory	(a) medicinal (b) inciting (c) time- consuming (d) unpleasant
46. hussock	(a) cuckoo (b) knoll (c) bassock (d) small bed
47. hurling	(a) arched pivot (b) console (c) election- eering platform (d) ladder
48. imbrue	(a) immerse (b) stain (c) permeate (d) prevent
49. imminent	(a) inherent (b) decisive (c) impending (d) prominent
50. incarnadine	(a) bluish (b) reddish (c) bluish (d) ashish
51. incubus	(a) oppressive burden (b) newborn child (c) growth (d) mystery
52. integument	(a) mathematical term (b) outer covering (c) complete whole (d) discourse
53. jilse	(a) yellow (b) barren (c) intended (d) youthful
54. joist	(a) hospite (b) mortise (c) timber laid horizontally (d) beam
55. leaped	(a) short rope (b) still (c) anchor chain (d) lower deck
56. litotes	(a) literary output (b) poetic means (c) two negatives making affirma- tive (d) exaggeration
57. lubrify	(a) elasticity (b) volatility (c) stickiness (d) leanness
58. mendacious	(a) early (b) bold (c) evasive (d) deathly
59. moribund	related to (a) marriage for wealth (b) mar- riage with a commoner (c) pompous ceremony (d) consubstating
60. nascent	(a) departing (b) bubbling (c) moist (d) beginning to exist
61. niggling	(a) prodding (b) teasing (c) petty (d) stingy
62. parvas	(a) passion (b) fantasy (c) exotic flower (d) over sales

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

43. senile	(a) senile (b) content (c) immature (d) state of being old fashioned
44. repugnant	(a) repugnant (b) trivial (c) solid (d) reprehensible
45. oblation	(a) solemn offering (b) responsibility (c) cleansing (d) reduction
46. offertory	(a) musical chant (b) church work (c) ac- count instrument (d) church collection
47. orator	(a) orator (b) herald (c) talkative (d) full of bores
48. paroxysm	(a) cube (b) remedy (c) phrase (d) basket
49. paragon	(a) study of languages (b) type of parly sis (c) elliptical figure (d) a pointing over with brief notices
50. pectus	(a) winged (b) long-tailed (c) tooth-edged (d) pointed
51. perspicuity	(a) realism (b) steadfastness (c) keen per- ception (d) clarity
52. pectyle	(a) grill pan (b) musical instrument (c) decoration (d) error count
53. pique	relating to (a) ropes (b) fish (c) ball- fight (d) sports
54. porphyry	(a) carved gold (b) reddish purple rock (c) velvet hanging (d) curtain
55. potter	(a) celebrating agent (b) medicinal drink (c) disturbance (d) full story
56. poem	(a) conclusion (b) surface (c) long poem (d) proclamation
57. praiseworthy	(a) gulfish (b) praiseworthy (c) low (d) impoverished
58. pensive	(a) certainties (b) supposed (c) mighty (d) deceiving
59. rapacious	(a) estimated (b) authoritative (c) selfish (d) peeping upon
60. recalcitrance	(a) rawness (b) reversal (c) refinement (d) lack of manners
61. reflection	(a) meditation (b) chronic disease (c) desert (d) light steel
62. replever	(a) contract complaint (b) horse witness (c) recovery of property (d) second helping
63. reutilized	(a) drawn back (b) noted (c) used to- gether (d) purchased
64. rood	(a) oath (b) crucifix (c) pennant (d) staff
65. satiate	(a) keeping (b) spicy (c) healthy (d) reasoning
66. scored	(a) long-drawn-out trade (b) slogan (c) sharp report (d) gentleman's agree- ment

87. sequestration	(a) horseback riding (b) distinction (c) reservoir (d) sequestration
88. orfèze	(a) Arabian sword (b) Turkish smoking vessel (c) military commander (d) water boy
89. splenic	(a) splendiferous (b) damaging (c) gorgonous (d) effusive
90. redolent	(a) sleep inducing (b) promoting perspiration (c) unpleasant (d) magnificent
91. sumptuary	(a) impressive (b) regulating expenditures (c) illegal (d) extravagant
92. taw	(a) hedge (b) dry meadow (c) small mountain lake (d) leather
93. tautology	(a) superfluous repetition (b) busy judgment (c) fine distinction (d) unison
94. theomaturgist	(a) appeaser (b) boxing expert (c) magician (d) translator
95. throody	(a) symposium (b) funeral song (c) melodious line (d) ancient ballad
96. tropes	(a) figure of speech (b) superfluity to exaggeration (d) intensity
97. tumbell	(a) two-wheeled cart (b) unusual costume (c) juggler's trick (d) dumbing wire
98. urline	(a) heapedful (b) degenerate (c) outlandish (d) baseless
99. vermicular	(a) shaggy (b) farinaceous (c) snail-like (d) worm-shaped
100. whorl	(a) glide (b) confusion (c) token (d) coil

# **PART, 100 Words to Crack Your Wisdom Teeth On**

1. anophthalm	(a) without a ruler (b) foreeless (c) bitter (d) sterilized
2. adventitious	(a) starting (b) incidental (c) deeply religious (d) opportune
3. afferent	(a) leading to a central point (b) answering (c) unaffected (d) timed
4. affatus	(a) equine (b) motorcycle (c) impudens (d) gastric ailment
5. anperand	(a) the symbol "E" (b) material to grind glass (c) unit of electricity (d) figure of speech
6. sca	(a) collection of old literary items (b) insect group (c) worthless hoo-a-bran (d) foolish action
7. anodyne	(a) terminal of a battery (b) book of notes (c) knotted rope (d) soothing medicine

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

4. appetency	(a) capability (b) craving (c) rivalry (d) glimmer
5. antithesis	(a) melancholy (b) humorous (c) essential (d) vegetative
10. vibration	act of (a) vibrating (b) listening (c) kissing (d) hiding
11. antichthonous	(a) pertaining to an extent maximal (b) naive (c) independent (d) self-starting
12. avascular	(a) gnarly (b) curved (c) like an arch (d) relating to one's ancestor
13. baline	(a) belt for sword (b) enclose on a horn (c) coat of mail (d) part of a castle
14. barratry	(a) enclosure (b) explosion (c) kind of fraud (d) legal opinion
15. baste	(a) grow fat (b) pound to a pulp (c) make into a paste (d) roast lightly
16. belidre	(a) prima donna (b) old woman (c) pol- itician's drag (d) cosmetic
17. bison	(a) small vehicle (b) knee (c) high shoe (d) type of leather
18. cachannation	(a) loud laughter (b) evil scheme (c) hypo- critical approval (d) medieval melody
19. carapace	(a) animal shell (b) sea shell (c) medieval carriage (d) gaudy banner
20. casualty	(a) expounding laws of chance (b) fatal- ism (c) unsubstantiated conclusion (d) species counting
21. catulque	(a) fatal error (b) complete upheaval (c) large waterfall (d) lateral scaffold
22. coenote	(a) monk living in a community (b) empty tomb (c) beginner (d) individualist
23. enceph	(a) absorption on a statue (b) wax re- sisting to optical illusion (c) empty tomb
24. chronancy	(a) cure of the foot (b) period of trial (c) poultry (d) beautiful handwriting
25. coveus	(a) brook guardian (b) cricket (c) cow neck (d) sheep spit
26. calup	(a) small drinking cup (b) part of harness (c) food pudding (d) small piece of meat
27. calophoe	(a) cabbagelike plant (b) inscription at end of book (c) sound-recording de- vice (d) ornamental headpiece
28. concupescence	(a) secret plotting (b) burning desire (c) brotherly love (d) recovery from illness
29. correve	(a) be evil (b) spend (c) be late (d) be a laughingstock

99. crepitate	(a) crawl (b) become weak (c) make a crackling sound (d) be fearful
10. crumpeur	pertaining to (a) twilight (b) fastidious (c) circulation of blood (d) drunkenness
11. cudo	(a) school of painting (b) extinct bird (c) middle section of a pedestal (d) frantic caper
12. ducant	(a) talk at length (b) fill a bottle (c) pour (d) filter
13. detritum	(a) narrow (b) wearing away (c) presumption (d) sudden exit
14. diacritic	(a) gastric disorder (b) ascent of a plane (c) two dots over a vowel (d) scattering of a people
15. dihymanb	(a) polioactive insect (b) glead (c) drug addict (d) perennate poison
16. doxology	(a) heresy (b) hymn of praise (c) study of propaganda (d) obstinate belief
17. empiricist	(a) relating to a market (b) based upon experience (c) ruling despotically (d) expansionist
18. eskithe	pertaining to (a) modern sculpture (b) mineral spring (c) earliest human culture (d) leap move
19. eronate	(a) get rid of (b) harp (c) glead against (d) falsify
20. eschatology	(a) study of obscene literature (b) doctrine relating to death (c) study of shell life (d) study of foreign lands
21. esclave	(a) pass the summer (b) procrastinate (c) have high regard for (d) cram hell
22. euphism	(a) excessive elegance of language (b) coarse manner of speech (c) pleasant harmony of sound (d) constant attention to health
23. eugrifa	(a) ritual moment (b) outward show (c) strict accuracy (d) critical explanation of a text
24. fulchra	(a) herd of prey (b) sword (c) prop (d) coward
25. fural	(a) iron clad (b) festive (c) wild (d) peristole
26. gacornade	(a) gallantry (b) company of musicians (c) trumpet call (d) shoutfulness
27. glaucous	(a) black-green (b) crumy (c) cynical (d) antile



48. grammar	(a) across deposits (b) equalizer (c) essential part of an accusation (d) measurement of weight
50. hyperborean	(a) frigid (b) exaggerated (c) tedious (d) sensitive
51. hypothecate	(a) mortgage (b) conjecture (c) store away (d) reason
52. unalloyed	(a) figure cut out in hard material (b) unquest ones (c) delicate tapestry (d) worthless imitation
53. irrevocable	(a) lost (b) unchangeable (c) unanswerable (d) unstable
54. laudate	(a) dole (b) cheer (c) flocking (d) belittling
55. misanth	(a) exuberant (b) prophetic (c) depressed (d) dragged
56. mastic	(a) kind of gum (b) diameter of the ear (c) overlordship (d) extract material
57. meander	(a) talk foolishly (b) go astray (c) chew thoroughly (d) bloat
58. moiety	(a) large portion (b) half (c) crop depletion (d) delivery
59. murals	(a) plague (b) monopoly land (c) small mouse (d) walled city
6 nap	(a) alk (b) back of neck (c) short hair (d) dance step
7 noble	(a) dark-skinned (b) manageable (c) like (d) lascivious
8 obsequious	(a) refused (b) burden (c) rebuke (d) oath
9 obloquy	(a) conference (b) delusion (c) prejudice (d) forgetfulness
4 oration	(a) stage (b) fixed idea (c) glassy rock (d) obstruction
5 oration	(a) tiled floor (b) female slave (c) coach (d) style of painting
6. oryx	(a) flowery (b) baneful (c) laborious (d) surgical
67. oriflamma	(a) display of fireworks (b) battle standard (c) sparkling jewel (d) decoration
68. orison	(a) prayer (b) distant view (c) the end (d) early rising
69. palimpsest	(a) parchment with layers of writing (b) floor of a Greek temple (c) fossil of prehistoric plant (d) words written backwards
70. palpic	(a) shock (b) quiver (c) entrance by touch (d) derivate
71. paragon	(a) figure having equal sides (b) model (c) contradiction (d) postpaid display

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

72. perturbation	(a) divorce (b) childlike (c) plunder (d) studies
73. peculation	(a) trading in cattle (b) stoning (c) gamboling (d) entertainment
74. pelagic	(a) mountainous (b) oceanic (c) icy (d) profane
75. pharisaical	(a) cruel (b) uncultured (c) self-righteous (d) prophetic
76. plebeian	(a) motley (b) tawny (c) with trimmed mane (d) chattering
77. plangent	(a) resounding deeply (b) affected with great joy (c) soft and mellow (d) pre-emptive
78. perlocution	(a) evilness (b) pedantic refinement (c) pedigree (d) advance knowledge
79. perambulation	(a) forlorned action (d) hindrance (b) cruise (c) foregathering
80. prorogue	(a) act haughtily (b) end a session (c) summon (d) cross-examine
81. quotidian	(a) trite (b) occurring every day (c) apportioning (d) word for word
82. recumbent	(a) life-giving (b) cowardly (c) repentant (d) lashed
83. reduction	(a) rehearsal (b) subordination (c) edging (d) consequent
84. reprobate	(a) official in charge of wife (b) sinner (c) stickler for accuracy (d) daughter
85. salubrious	(a) sandy (b) hazy (c) stinking (d) splashed
86. scurify	(a) frighten (b) deform (c) make a scratch (d) flee
87. scoldish	(a) annotation (b) superficial knowledge (c) belief in supernatural (d) grammatical error
88. skittles	(a) trifle (b) ale (c) bowling game (d) pretense
89. sleazy	(b) slippery (a) sleazy (c) asthenic (d) disgusting
90. sternation	(a) hardening (b) reversed (c) trepidation (d) weeding
91. subliminal	(a) defecial (b) subconscious (c) highly colored (d) lobby in use
92. supposition	(a) undetermined (b) strained (c) contrived (d) underrated
93. supererogation	(a) dutiness (b) endless repetition (c) obscurity (d) description of a cause
94. truncated	(a) three-pronged (b) patronized (c) eliminated (d) fatigued

## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

91. vialism	(a) bowl (b) plead with (c) sing nonsense syllables (d) mumble
94. vaticination	(a) prophecy (b) hawking (c) neighborhood (d) inoculation
97. viable	(a) temporary (b) easily transported (c) capable of living (d) rivaling
98. virulent	(a) malicious (b) sticky (c) life-like (d) glaucous
99. vulpine	(a) crafty (b) wolfish (c) hoglike (d) ravenous
100. wane	(a) awkward creature (b) slow gait (c) form of bowl (d) leatherlike, floppy flap

### IX. Word

1. acronym	(a) high peak (b) sharp point (c) word formed from initial letters (d) elusive name
2. addit	(a) mine entrance (b) ledger balance (c) publicity release (d) calculating machine
3. addititious	(a) well-known (b) unexpensive (c) pedantic (d) additional
4. aleatory	(a) depending on chance (b) incongruity (c) outright (d) comforting
5. alibolia	(a) dalks of food (b) class of a byma (c) form of speech disorder (d) loud grating
6. anamorphic	(a) distortion (b) flowery (c) levelish (d) pitch-controlled
7. anemose	(a) trade away (b) parish by fire (c) class (d) pound to bits
8. amphibology	(a) double sense (b) ability to live on land and sea (c) perimeter (d) state of being double-parted
9. anagoge	(a) parallel (b) mystical (c) leading astray (d) relaxing pain
10. analepsis	(a) legal codes (b) word games (c) proverbs (d) miscellaneous passages
11. anapical	(a) doubtful (b) sudden (c) two-edged (d) tasteless
12. anfractuosa	(a) full of curves and turns (b) lacking polish (c) unrecognizable (d) dominating
13. annular	(a) ring-shaped (b) alimentary (c) arboreal (d) occurring yearly
14. anasta	(a) procelike (b) responsible (c) crooked (d) having a handle

15. asarist (a) quick-tongued (b) invited (c) early (d) stupid
16. andromy (a) metallic element (b) rebellious spirit (c) opposition between principles (d) lack of reason
17. apocalyptic pertaining to (a) catastrophe (b) prophetic revelation (c) homeliness (d) church architecture
18. apodictic (a) radical (b) meeting love (c) nominal (d) clearly discernible
19. apologetics (a) pacification (b) opposition (c) sentence left incomplete (d) lost element
20. appurage (a) dependency (b) long phrase (c) pale-talker (d) panoramic view
21. apical (a) transiently fixed (b) wingless (c) related to church altar (d) most likely
22. arcana (a) record files (b) sacred spirits (c) secrets (d) mementos
23. arthritic (a) weak (b) breathing heavily (c) cultured (d) barren
24. cryderion (a) omission of conjunctions (b) poetic license (c) inclination to wrongdoing (d) flowery language
25. asarist (a) accuser (b) perfume (c) incarnation (d) magnet
26. balia (a) bad skin (b) beautiful girl (c) red back (d) whalebone
27. calceat (a) growing warm (b) emerging (c) beautifying (d) wanting
28. carter (a) curve upward (b) climb quickly (c) needle work (d) make an exchange
29. caudle (a) benchmark (b) short tail (c) overconfidence (d) warm drink for invalids
30. charismatic (a) of many colors (b) rubbed with oil (c) possessing divine gift of prophecy (d) kind and generous
31. chine (a) cattle (b) succession of bell sounds (c) hole (d) backbone
32. chitling (a) smattering (b) small child (c) part of small intestine (d) trifling expense
33. coactation (a) fibrous serpent (b) deep wound (c) tropical bird (d) breed of dog
34. conation (a) geometric problem (b) crowning of a ruler (c) treaty of alliance (d) stirring
35. consortium (a) Euclidean condition (b) marriage (c) selection (d) fortune telling
36. cosive (a) expensive (b) consipated (c) motion (d) forward

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

37. capacious	(a) bloated (b) long-winded (c) depending on luck (d) all from overdrinking
38. caudal	(a) lateral (b) two-headed (c) active (d) ingrown
39. depletion	(a) appearance (b) swallowing food (c) satiety (d) stagnation
40. delirience	(a) growing old (b) inclination to argue (c) persistence of joy (d) hiding
41. denigrate	(a) half-baked with (b) power creating a world (c) leader of the people (d) minor actions
42. denigrate	(a) slow (b) halved (c) very small (d) interfering
43. discolored	(a) ejected (b) whitewashed (c) without shoes (d) covered
44. dragonar	(a) cavalry officer (b) interpreter (c) oriental judge (d) mythological monster
45. edyle	(a) drury (b) persons (c) edification (d) meeting
46. edacious	(a) devouring (b) held (c) suitable (d) proud
47. embroiled	(a) embroiled (b) entangle (c) rub with laurel (d) pour into a flask
48. epone	(a) common to both sexes (b) humorous (c) pertaining to the stage (d) recumbent a narrow poem
49. evanescent	(a) refractory (b) crafty (c) voracious (d) insatiable
50. foliated	(a) fan-shaped (b) bleached (c) branching out (d) subject
51. etiology	(a) rules of poetic structure (b) theory of matter (c) study of temperature (d) inquiry into physical causes
52. farthingale	(a) small coin (b) framework for hoop skirt (c) horse's harness (d) small bird
53. feculent	(a) productive (b) foolish (c) covered with filth (d) falling apart
54. ferocious	(a) predatory (b) fierce (c) overpowering (d) fertile
55. flagitious	(a) persistent (b) atrocious (c) jagged (d) emblematic
56. flocculent	(a) woolly (b) unbridled (c) congregating (d) pretentious
57. fragile	(a) cooked quickly (b) easily crumbled (c) of a grain nature (d) belonging to a religious order
58. fuliginous	(a) leaden (b) gleaming (c) thundering (d) sooty
59. glabrous	(a) pertaining to the soil (b) supple (c) swordlike (d) smooth

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

60. goopet (a) study mass (b) figure 1 followed by 100 zeros (c) baby talk (d) theory of language origin
61. lustrade (a) stupor (b) beauty (c) sharpness (d) happiness
62. lauratic (a) perceiving pupil is fired out by himself (b) related to investigations of holy works (c) pseudo-scientific (d) associated with rank of religious office
63. lotus (a) small fish (b) cutting tool (c) street (d) foot of verse
64. lusive (a) unrelated (b) inferential (c) demonstrative (d) overjoyed
65. lubricate (a) overlap (b) accuse of conspiracy (c) become entangled in thorns (d) rain heavily
66. lustrated (a) scattered (b) encouraged (c) slaying (d) thickened
67. intercalate (a) measure a day (b) warm up (c) keep records (d) insert a day in a calendar
68. lusher (a) continuance to close a door (b) conspicuous delay (c) cowardice (d) skin disease
69. macrocule (a) feeble-minded (b) jumbled (c) spicy (d) humorous
70. martingale (a) forked strap (b) warbler (c) atmospheric disturbance (d) period costume
71. misprision (a) illegal arrest (b) contempt (c) oversight (d) official misanthrope
72. mephitic (a) forgiveness (b) poverty (c) opiate (d) grotesque curve
73. mislery (a) imitation (b) stores (c) undervaluation (d) good mascot
74. mnapopoeia (a) misanthrope (b) not written (c) lacking doors (d) excluded
75. pandet (a) ancient ruler (b) unseen operative (c) complete digest (d) universal cure
76. paraclete (a) advocate (b) prophetic (c) selfish person (d) ancient author
77. patchwork (a) fish stew (b) meat perfume (c) parlor game (d) mixed-meat cake
78. pejorative (a) making evil (b) accelerative (c) degenerative (d) magical
79. prolegomena (a) mannered style of writing (b) hereditary estate (c) completion of law (d) preliminary remarks
80. portentous (a) source (b) government (c) brought (d) accommodation

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

81. quietist	(a) condenser (b) conservative (c) soft-spoken person (d) advocate of passive attitude
82. recidivism	(a) confirmed criminality (b) suicide (c) ancestor worship (d) revival
83. recumbent	(a) dilaory (b) dissenting in religion (c) extremely dry (d) hard-hearted
84. recess	(a) fall of cracks (b) possessing poetic quality (c) covered with ice (d) having a rounded surface
85. repose	(a) dry (b) reddish (c) wrinkled (d) coldish
86. scabrous	(a) rough (b) inflated (c) disease-ridden (d) totally bald
87. scatalogical	relating to (a) study of obscure literature (b) distant planets (c) secret passions (d) life after death
88. scutate	(a) chondrous (b) evanescent (c) indistinguishable (d) shield-shaped
89. suppetate	(a) breathe with difficulty (b) crush (c) form gas (d) condense
90. suscitain	(a) whisper (b) become infected (c) revive (d) affirm
91. tawle	(a) bandage (b) mostly praise (c) wide path (d) roll of a ship
92. titubate	(a) sweet dish (b) course of study (c) type of argument (d) word formation
93. ideology	(a) doctrine of purpose in nature (b) study of sound (c) investigation of primitive life (d) belief in chance as the determinant of human affairs
94. tuckered	(a) abhorred (b) inclined to quarrel (c) strongly biased (d) reluctant
95. undue	(a) slender (b) prostrate (c) chest (d) betray
96. usufruct	(a) gradual wasting away (b) contribut interest (c) enjoyment of property belonging to another (d) scientific farm management
97. wafely	(a) elegant (b) specimen of parchment (c) dappery (d) slight web
98. verbugerate	(a) cause a repeated echo (b) repeat senselessly (c) become cynical (d) revolve senselessly
99. vireoscent	(a) springlike (b) harmful (c) truthful (d) awe-inspiring
100. vireoscent	(a) causing burns (b) glossy (c) poisonous (d) relating to a mathematical term



"Well, I did it . . . but don't ask me how," \*

## Answers

### Chapter 1

(Pages 26-27)

1:0	8:2	9:0	22:2	17:3	22:2
2:3	9:1	10:3	24:2	18:0	22:2
3:4	7:1	10:4	25:4	20:0	22:4
4:1	6:3	12:0	26:0	20:4	24:2
22:6	22:4	27:2	43:3	40:3	22:4
24:4	22:0	28:1	44:4	20:2	26:4
22:2	22:2	29:1	40:4	22:2	
26:2	24:2	40:2	40:2	22:2	
22:1	25:1	41:2	47:3	22:2	
26:2	26:4	42:4	48:2	26:0	

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# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

## Chapter 2 (Pages 23-28)

1. 60	6. 60	11. 60	16. 60	21. 60
2. 60	7. 60	12. 60	17. 60	22. 60
3. 60	8. 60	13. 60	18. 60	23. 60
4. 60	9. 60	14. 60	19. 60	24. 60

## Answers to words in phrases (Pages 25-28)

1. 60	26. 60	51. 60	76. 60	101. 60
2. 60	27. 60	52. 60	77. 60	102. 60
3. 60	28. 60	53. 60	78. 60	103. 60
4. 60	29. 60	54. 60	79. 60	104. 60
5. 60	30. 60	55. 60	80. 60	105. 60
6. 60	31. 60	56. 60	81. 60	106. 60
7. 60	32. 60	57. 60	82. 60	107. 60
8. 60	33. 60	58. 60	83. 60	108. 60
9. 60	34. 60	59. 60	84. 60	109. 60
10. 60	35. 60	60. 60	85. 60	110. 60
11. 60	36. 60	61. 60	86. 60	111. 60
12. 60	37. 60	62. 60	87. 60	112. 60
13. 60	38. 60	63. 60	88. 60	113. 60
14. 60	39. 60	64. 60	89. 60	114. 60
15. 60	40. 60	65. 60	90. 60	115. 60
	41. 60	66. 60	91. 60	116. 60
	42. 60	67. 60	92. 60	117. 60
	43. 60	68. 60	93. 60	118. 60
	44. 60	69. 60	94. 60	119. 60
	45. 60	70. 60	95. 60	120. 60

## Chapter 3 (Page 30)

1. 6	2. 6	3. 6	4. 6	5. 6
6. 6	7. 6	8. 6	9. 6	10. 6

## Chapter 4 (Pages 34-35)

- I. 1. know  
2. knowledges; knowing  
3. diagnosis  
II. 1. know  
2. know  
3. know  
4. know

4. know  
5. know  
6. know  
7. know  
8. know  
9. know  
10. know

III. 1a 2a 3a 4a 5a 6a 7a 8a 9a 10a

IV. A. 1. know 2. know 3. know 4. know

V. A. 1a 2a 3a 4a 5a 6a 7a 8a

B. 1. know 2. know 3. know 4. know  
5. know 6. know

Chapter 1

(Pages 34-63)

I.	1. 101	7. 101	13. 101	19. 101	25. 101
	2. 101	8. 101	14. 101	20. 101	26. 101
	3. 101	9. 101	15. 101	21. 101	27. 101
	4. 101	10. 101	16. 101	22. 101	28. 101
	5. 101	11. 101	17. 101	23. 101	29. 101
	6. 101	12. 101	18. 101	24. 101	30. 101
II.	1. 101	2. 101	3. 101	4. 101	5. 101
	6. 101	7. 101	8. 101	9. 101	10. 101
III.	1. 101	4. 101	7. 101	10. 101	
	2. 101	5. 101	8. 101	11. 101	
	3. 101	6. 101	9. 101	12. 101	

Chapter 2

(Pages 74-93)

1. 101	11. 101	21. 101	31. 101	41. 101
2. 101	12. 101	22. 101	32. 101	42. 101
3. 101	13. 101	23. 101	33. 101	43. 101
4. 101	14. 101	24. 101	34. 101	44. 101
5. 101	15. 101	25. 101	35. 101	45. 101
6. 101	16. 101	26. 101	36. 101	46. 101
7. 101	17. 101	27. 101	37. 101	47. 101
8. 101	18. 101	28. 101	38. 101	48. 101
9. 101	19. 101	29. 101	39. 101	49. 101
10. 101	20. 101	30. 101	40. 101	50. 101

Chapter 3

(Pages 104-123)

I. Negative words: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20

II.	1. negative	6. hyperbolic
	2. positive	7. allusion
	3. allusion	8. irony
	4. simile	9. personification
	5. personification	10. personification

III.	1. personification	4. simile
	2. allusion	7. irony
	3. irony	8. personification
	4. hyperbolic	9. personification
	5. allusion	10. allusion

- IV. 1. away; wandering away, deviation  
 2. by; addition to, growth  
 3. not; formalism  
 4. before, happening before  
 5. around, come around, outside  
 6. from, distance off, divergence  
 7. apart, distant, remote, enlarge, expand  
 8. from, resulting from the subject, resulting  
 9. faintly; lack of emphasis  
 10. not, without  
 11. not; not able to be expressed, mysterious  
 12. not, prevention, weak  
 13. between, come between, between  
 14. within, within the walls  
 15. in way of; stand off  
 16. through, penetrate  
 17. away, move outward  
 18. backward; go back, decline  
 19. apart, away; relation  
 20. together; putting together, combining into a unit
- V. Row 1: in, by; Row 2: also, on, out, in, by  
 Row 4: in, not (or no), Row 5: in, also  
 Row 6: in, Row 7: now, on, Row 8: in, at, in, 2

## Chapter 3

(Pages 70-80)

- I. A. THREE B. THREE or FOUR. C. SEVEN. TWO. D. 64  
 E. 1718, F. FIVE.
- II. A. unappreciated B. underestimating C. unanimously; unanimity  
 D. previous
- III. 1. 100 2. 100 3. 50 7. 50 9. 100  
 1. 100 4. 50 6. 50 8. 50 10. 100
- IV. 1. 5 2. 5 3. 1 7. 5 9. 2 12. 5  
 2. 1 4. 5 6. 1 8. 5 10. 1 13. 5

## Chapter 4

(Pages 104-110)

- I. 1. 1 2. 5 3. 1 7. 5 9. 5  
 2. 1 4. 5 6. 1 8. 5 10. 5
- II. A. 1. 1 2. 5 3. 1 7. 5 9. 5  
 1. 1 4. 5 6. 1 8. 5 10. 5  
 B. 1. 1 2. 1 3. 1 7. 5 9. 5  
 2. 5 4. 5 6. 5 8. 5 10. 5
- III. 1. 5 2. 5 3. 5 7. 5 9. 1  
 2. 5 4. 1 6. 5 8. 5 10. 1
- IV. 1. 1 2. 5 3. 1 7. 5 9. 1  
 2. 5 4. 1 6. 5 8. 5 10. 5

# ANSWERS

## Chapter 18

(Page 118)

I.	1. 60	3. 60	5. 60	7. 60	9. 60
	2. 60	4. 60	6. 60	8. 60	10. 60
II.	1. 60	3. 60	5. 60	7. 60	9. 60
	2. 60	4. 60	6. 60	8. 60	10. 60

## Chapter 19

(Page 124-125)

I. Review of preliminary test in Chapter 1. Answer on page 81.

II.	1. 60	21. 60	41. 60	61. 60	81. 60
	2. 60	22. 60	42. 60	62. 60	82. 60
	3. 60	23. 60	43. 60	63. 60	83. 60
	4. 60	24. 60	44. 60	64. 60	84. 60
	5. 60	25. 60	45. 60	65. 60	85. 60
	6. 60	26. 60	46. 60	66. 60	86. 60
	7. 60	27. 60	47. 60	67. 60	87. 60
	8. 60	28. 60	48. 60	68. 60	88. 60
	9. 60	29. 60	49. 60	69. 60	89. 60
	10. 60	30. 60	50. 60	70. 60	90. 60
	11. 60	31. 60	51. 60	71. 60	91. 60
	12. 60	32. 60	52. 60	72. 60	92. 60
	13. 60	33. 60	53. 60	73. 60	93. 60
	14. 60	34. 60	54. 60	74. 60	94. 60
	15. 60	35. 60	55. 60	75. 60	95. 60
	16. 60	36. 60	56. 60	76. 60	96. 60
	17. 60	37. 60	57. 60	77. 60	97. 60
	18. 60	38. 60	58. 60	78. 60	98. 60
	19. 60	39. 60	59. 60	79. 60	99. 60
	20. 60	40. 60	60. 60	80. 60	100. 60

## Chapter 19

(Page 124-125)

I.	1. b	3. b	5. a	7. b	9. b
	2. a	4. a	6. b	8. a	10. b
II.	1. inter-species			11. uncorrelated	
	2. lower			12. trend	
	3. extraneous			13. formance	
	4. viral			14. ready	
	5. cultured			15. unbalanced	
	6. depressed			16. participation	
	7. beside			17. discount	
	8. complementary			18. complete	
	9. measurements			19. feed	
	10. unpopularity			20. feed	

## Chapter 14

(Page 108-110)

1. 60	21. 60	41. 60	61. 60	81. 60
2. 60	22. 60	42. 60	62. 60	82. 60
3. 60	23. 60	43. 60	63. 60	83. 60
4. 60	24. 60	44. 60	64. 60	84. 60
5. 60	25. 60	45. 60	65. 60	85. 60
6. 60	26. 60	46. 60	66. 60	86. 60
7. 60	27. 60	47. 60	67. 60	87. 60
8. 60	28. 60	48. 60	68. 60	88. 60
9. 60	29. 60	49. 60	69. 60	89. 60
10. 60	30. 60	50. 60	70. 60	90. 60
11. 60	31. 60	51. 60	71. 60	91. 60
12. 60	32. 60	52. 60	72. 60	92. 60
13. 60	33. 60	53. 60	73. 60	93. 60
14. 60	34. 60	54. 60	74. 60	94. 60
15. 60	35. 60	55. 60	75. 60	95. 60
16. 60	36. 60	56. 60	76. 60	96. 60
17. 60	37. 60	57. 60	77. 60	97. 60
18. 60	38. 60	58. 60	78. 60	98. 60
19. 60	39. 60	59. 60	79. 60	99. 60
20. 60	40. 60	60. 60	80. 60	100. 60

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

## Chapter 13 (Pages 179-193)

A

1. h	2. i	3. a	13. a	17. i
2. a	4. a	10. a	14. o	18. a
3. a	7. a	11. i	15. a	19. a
4. a	8. a	12. i	16. a	20. a

B

1. abiding	34. abiding
2. ascending	35. abiding
3. abiding	36. assurance
4. assured	37. abiding
5. abiding	38. abiding
6. abiding	39. abiding
7. abiding	40. abiding
8. abiding	41. abiding
9. abiding	42. abiding
10. abiding	43. abiding
11. abiding	44. abiding
12. abiding	45. abiding
13. abiding	46. abiding
14. abiding	47. abiding
15. abiding	48. abiding

## Chapter 14 (Pages 194-199)

I.	1. (a)	2. (a)	3. (a)	13. (a)	17. (a)
	2. (a)	4. (a)	10. (a)	14. (a)	18. (a)
	3. (a)	7. (a)	11. (a)	15. (a)	19. (a)
	4. (a)	8. (a)	12. (a)	16. (a)	20. (a)
II.	1. (a)	4. (a)	11. (a)	18. (a)	21. (a)
	2. (a)	7. (a)	12. (a)	19. (a)	22. (a)
	3. (a)	8. (a)	13. (a)	20. (a)	23. (a)
	4. (a)	9. (a)	14. (a)	21. (a)	24. (a)
	5. (a)	10. (a)	15. (a)	22. (a)	25. (a)

III.	1. i	4. i	7. i	10. i
	2. i	5. i	8. i	11. i
	3. i	6. i	9. i	12. i

## Chapter 15 (Pages 200-205)

I.	1. i	5. i	9. i	13. i	17. i
	2. i	6. i	10. i	14. i	18. i
II.	1. (a)	2. (a)	3. (a)	4. (a)	5. (a)
	6. (a)	7. (a)	8. (a)	9. (a)	10. (a)

## Chapter 16 (Page 206)

1. incense	7. volatile
2. potent	8. effluvia
3. revolve	9. effluvia
4. incense	10. effluvia
5. incense	11. effluvia
6. incense	12. effluvia

# ANSWERS

## Chapter 19 (Pages 216-217)

I.	1. 1.1 2. 1.2	3. a 4. a	5. b 6. b	7. 1 8. b	9. b 10. b
II.	1. a 2. 1	3. b 4. a	5. b 6. 1	7. a 8. b	9. 1 10. 1

## Chapter 20 (Pages 244-245)

I.	1. antipath 2. echinurus 3. alveolus 4. mesopod 5. lenticular 6. inflated 7. alveolar 8. calcareous				
				9. (a) compressed or appressed (b) vermicular (c) strigose (d) cyrenoid 10. (a) septifolial (b) plicose (c) cordiform (d) radioplicate	
II.	1. a	2. a	3. a	4. b	5. a
III.	1. a	2. a	3. a	4. b	5. a

## Chapter 21 (Pages 264-265)

I.	1. 100	2. 100	3. 100	4. 100	5. 100
II.	1. 100 2. 100	3. 100 4. 100	5. 100 6. 100	7. 100 8. 100	9. 100 10. 100
III.	1. 100	2. 100	3. 100	4. 100	5. 100
IV.	A. 1. a 2. 1	3. 1 4. b	5. 1 6. a	7. b 8. a	9. a 10. b
V.	B. 1. a 2. a	3. b 4. 1	5. 1 6. b	7. a 8. b	9. 1 10. 1
VI.	A. 1. 1 2. 1	3. b 4. 1	5. b 6. a	7. 1 8. b	9. b 10. a
VII.	B. 1. 1 2. b	3. 1 4. a	5. b 6. 1	7. a 8. a	9. b 10. b

## Chapter 22 (Pages 289-290)

I.	1. 100 2. 100	3. 100 4. 100	5. 100 6. 100	7. 100 8. 100	9. 100 10. 100
II.	1. 1 2. b	3. a 4. 1	5. 1 6. a	7. a 8. a	9. b 10. a
III.	1. 1 2. b	3. a 4. a	5. b 6. 1	7. a 8. 1	9. a 10. a
IV.	1. 1 2. a	3. 1 4. b	5. 1 6. b	7. a 8. a	9. a 10. a

# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

## Chapter 23 (Pages 294-318)

I.	1. 11 2. 11	3. 2 4. 7	5. 7 6. 7	7. 4 8. 9	9. 9 10. 1
II.	1. 11 2. 11	3. 11 4. 11	5. 11 6. 11	7. 11 8. 11	9. 11 10. 11
III.	1. 11 and 11 2. 11 and 11 3. 11 and 11 4. 11 and 11 5. 11 and 11			6. 11 and 11 7. 11 and 11 8. 11 and 11 9. 11 and 11 10. 11 and 11	
IV.	1. 11 and 11 2. 11 and 11 3. 11 and 11 4. 11 and 11 5. 11 and 11			6. 11 and 11 7. 11 and 11 8. 11 and 11 9. 11 and 11 10. 11 and 11	
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IX.	B. 1. 11 2. 11 3. 11	4. 11 5. 11 6. 11	7. 11 8. 11 9. 11	10. 11 11. 11 12. 11	13. 11 14. 11 15. 11
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	2. apostle	19. apothecial	36. strachan
	3. asexual	20. anaglyphic	37. strychnic
	4. Anatomical	21. anastomose	38. Cerebral
	5. asphyxial	22. anaglyph	39. peripneumonia
	6. axial	23. anastomosis	40. meninges
	7. Castellanigan	24. Suppuratory	41. revivifying
	8. anemone	25. anastomosis	42. strachan
	9. anastomosis	26. gynecological	43. strychnic
	10. anatomical	27. anastomosis	44. strachan
	11. axial	28. strachan	45. anastomosis
	12. axillary	29. anastomosis	46. strachan
	13. Castellan	30. strachan	47. Thomson
	14. strachan	31. strachan	48. strachan
	15. anastomosis	32. strachan	49. strachan
	16. strachan	33. strachan	50. strachan
	17. anastomosis	34. strachan	

XIII.	1. anastomosis	13. strachan	21. strachan
	2. strachan	14. strachan	22. strachan
	3. strachan	15. strachan	23. strachan
	4. strachan	16. strachan	24. strachan
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	11. strachan	23. strachan	
	12. strachan	24. strachan	

XIV.	1. B. strachan	11. F. strachan
	2. B. strachan general	12. F. strachan
	3. F. strachan general	13. F. strachan
	4. B. strachan	14. F. strachan
	5. F. strachan	15. F. strachan
	6. F. strachan	16. F. strachan
	7. B. strachan	17. F. strachan
	8. B. strachan	18. F. strachan
	9. B. strachan	19. F. strachan
	10. F. strachan	20. F. strachan

XV.	1. M. strachan	11. F. strachan
	2. F. strachan	12. F. strachan
	3. F. strachan	13. F. strachan
	4. M. strachan	14. F. strachan
	5. M. strachan	15. F. strachan
	6. M. strachan	16. F. strachan
	7. M. strachan	17. F. strachan
	8. F. strachan	18. F. strachan
	9. F. strachan	19. F. strachan
	10. M. strachan	20. F. strachan

XVI.	1. 100	5. 100	9. 100	13. 100	17. 100
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XVII.	1. 100	5. 100	9. 100	13. 100	17. 100
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	3. 100	7. 100	11. 100	15. 100	19. 100
	4. 100	8. 100	12. 100	16. 100	20. 100



# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

## Chapter 24

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	2. 00	32. 10	42. 10	62. 00	82. 00
	3. 00	33. 10	43. 10	63. 00	83. 00
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	9. 10	39. 10	49. 10	69. 00	89. 00
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	9. 00	39. 10	59. 00	79. 00	99. 00
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III.	1. 00	31. 10	51. 00	71. 00	91. 00
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	13. 00	43. 10	63. 00	83. 00	103. 00
	14. 00	44. 10	64. 00	84. 00	104. 00
	15. 00	45. 10	65. 00	85. 00	105. 00
	16. 00	46. 10	66. 00	86. 00	106. 00
	17. 00	47. 10	67. 00	87. 00	107. 00
	18. 00	48. 10	68. 00	88. 00	108. 00
	19. 00	49. 10	69. 00	89. 00	109. 00
	20. 00	50. 10	70. 00	90. 00	110. 00

项目	金额
一、流动资产	100.00
二、非流动资产	100.00
三、所有者权益	100.00
四、负债	100.00
五、其他	100.00
六、合计	100.00

「我對你太了解了，你太容易相信別人了。」

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

“我从小就喜欢画画，从小学到高中，一直学画。上大学以后，我选择了设计专业，继续深造。毕业后，我进入了一家设计公司，从事平面设计工作。在工作中，我积累了丰富的设计经验，也结识了许多志同道合的朋友。现在，我是一名自由职业者，承接各种设计项目，生活充实而有意义。”

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# HOW TO BUILD A BETTER VOCABULARY

|     |         |         |        |        |         |
|-----|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| VII | 1. 00   | 21. 101 | 41. 00 | 61. 00 | 81. 101 |
|     | 2. 10   | 22. 11  | 42. 00 | 62. 00 | 82. 01  |
|     | 3. 00   | 23. 111 | 43. 00 | 63. 00 | 83. 00  |
|     | 4. 00   | 24. 100 | 44. 00 | 64. 00 | 84. 00  |
|     | 5. 00   | 25. 00  | 45. 01 | 65. 00 | 85. 00  |
|     | 6. 100  | 26. 100 | 46. 01 | 66. 01 | 86. 00  |
|     | 7. 10   | 27. 10  | 47. 00 | 67. 00 | 87. 00  |
|     | 8. 10   | 28. 00  | 48. 01 | 68. 00 | 88. 01  |
|     | 9. 10   | 29. 10  | 49. 00 | 69. 01 | 89. 00  |
|     | 10. 101 | 30. 100 | 50. 01 | 70. 00 | 90. 00  |
|     | 11. 00  | 31. 10  | 51. 01 | 71. 00 | 91. 00  |
|     | 12. 10  | 32. 00  | 52. 01 | 72. 00 | 92. 00  |
|     | 13. 10  | 33. 00  | 53. 01 | 73. 00 | 93. 00  |
|     | 14. 00  | 34. 00  | 54. 00 | 74. 00 | 94. 10  |
|     | 15. 10  | 35. 10  | 55. 00 | 75. 00 | 95. 00  |
|     | 16. 10  | 36. 00  | 56. 00 | 76. 00 | 96. 10  |
|     | 17. 10  | 37. 00  | 57. 00 | 77. 01 | 97. 10  |
|     | 18. 00  | 38. 00  | 58. 01 | 78. 00 | 98. 01  |
|     | 19. 00  | 39. 00  | 59. 00 | 79. 00 | 99. 00  |
|     | 20. 00  | 40. 00  | 60. 10 | 80. 01 | 100. 00 |

|      |        |         |        |        |         |
|------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| VIII | 1. 00  | 21. 10  | 41. 00 | 61. 00 | 81. 00  |
|      | 2. 00  | 22. 10  | 42. 00 | 62. 00 | 82. 00  |
|      | 3. 10  | 23. 10  | 43. 00 | 63. 00 | 83. 00  |
|      | 4. 10  | 24. 10  | 44. 00 | 64. 00 | 84. 00  |
|      | 5. 00  | 25. 00  | 45. 00 | 65. 00 | 85. 00  |
|      | 6. 10  | 26. 00  | 46. 00 | 66. 01 | 86. 00  |
|      | 7. 00  | 27. 00  | 47. 00 | 67. 00 | 87. 00  |
|      | 8. 00  | 28. 00  | 48. 00 | 68. 00 | 88. 10  |
|      | 9. 00  | 29. 00  | 49. 00 | 69. 01 | 89. 01  |
|      | 10. 00 | 30. 00  | 50. 00 | 70. 01 | 90. 00  |
|      | 11. 00 | 31. 00  | 51. 00 | 71. 00 | 91. 00  |
|      | 12. 10 | 32. 10  | 52. 00 | 72. 00 | 92. 00  |
|      | 13. 00 | 33. 10  | 53. 00 | 73. 00 | 93. 00  |
|      | 14. 10 | 34. 00  | 54. 00 | 74. 00 | 94. 01  |
|      | 15. 10 | 35. 00  | 55. 00 | 75. 00 | 95. 00  |
|      | 16. 00 | 36. 100 | 56. 00 | 76. 00 | 96. 00  |
|      | 17. 00 | 37. 00  | 57. 00 | 77. 00 | 97. 00  |
|      | 18. 00 | 38. 00  | 58. 00 | 78. 00 | 98. 00  |
|      | 19. 10 | 39. 10  | 59. 00 | 79. 00 | 99. 00  |
|      | 20. 10 | 40. 00  | 60. 00 | 80. 01 | 100. 00 |

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|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| IX | 1. 00  | 21. 00 | 41. 00 | 61. 10 | 81. 00  |
|    | 2. 00  | 22. 10 | 42. 00 | 62. 10 | 82. 00  |
|    | 3. 10  | 23. 10 | 43. 00 | 63. 00 | 83. 00  |
|    | 4. 10  | 24. 10 | 44. 00 | 64. 00 | 84. 00  |
|    | 5. 10  | 25. 00 | 45. 10 | 65. 00 | 85. 00  |
|    | 6. 10  | 26. 00 | 46. 00 | 66. 00 | 86. 00  |
|    | 7. 00  | 27. 10 | 47. 00 | 67. 00 | 87. 00  |
|    | 8. 10  | 28. 00 | 48. 00 | 68. 00 | 88. 00  |
|    | 9. 00  | 29. 00 | 49. 00 | 69. 01 | 89. 00  |
|    | 10. 10 | 30. 00 | 50. 00 | 70. 00 | 90. 00  |
|    | 11. 10 | 31. 10 | 51. 00 | 71. 00 | 91. 00  |
|    | 12. 10 | 32. 10 | 52. 00 | 72. 00 | 92. 00  |
|    | 13. 10 | 33. 10 | 53. 00 | 73. 00 | 93. 00  |
|    | 14. 10 | 34. 10 | 54. 00 | 74. 00 | 94. 00  |
|    | 15. 10 | 35. 10 | 55. 00 | 75. 00 | 95. 00  |
|    | 16. 10 | 36. 00 | 56. 00 | 76. 00 | 96. 01  |
|    | 17. 00 | 37. 10 | 57. 00 | 77. 00 | 97. 00  |
|    | 18. 00 | 38. 10 | 58. 00 | 78. 00 | 98. 00  |
|    | 19. 00 | 39. 00 | 59. 00 | 79. 00 | 99. 01  |
|    | 20. 00 | 40. 00 | 60. 00 | 80. 01 | 100. 00 |

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Only words that receive more than passing mention in the text are listed here. Words used in exercises and tests can be found (generally in alphabetical order) at ends of chapters and in the body of chapters 24 and 25. Lists of foreign words and phrases used in English appear in chapters 21 and 22.

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## THE AUTHORS

Maxwell Nurnberg, like his co-author, an expert in the science of words and names, has written many books and articles on the subject, including a series regularly featured in *Good Housekeeping*, as well as a radio series called WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD? Now an assistant professor at New York University, Division of General Education, Mr. Nurnberg is also Chairman of the Department of English at Abraham Lincoln High School, Brooklyn, N. Y. Among his many other books are SENTENCE SENSE, WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD? (on which the radio series was based), and A NEW WAY TO BETTER ENGLISH.

Dr. Morris Rosenblum has contributed articles on literature, the classics, and the study of words to many popular periodicals and scholarly magazines. Among other works, he edited STORIES FROM MANY LANDS and authored an award-winning study and translation of the Latin poet Lucretius. Dr. Rosenblum is a lecturer in classics, comparative literature, and education at Brooklyn College and Queens College, New York.